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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 72

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BLOOMING MARVELLOUS!

The Ashford Flower Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary the only way it knows how - with a jaw-dropping floral display.

The club, which has exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show, is marking the occasion with a special week-long display at County Square.

■ BY ED HILL

THE body of Tony Staplehurst - the pensioner who tumbled to his death from a cliff top in South Africa while on holiday - is set to be flown home in the coming weeks.

Mr Staplehurst, 76, is believed to have slipped and fallen 50ft while on a guided tour of a nature reserve last week.

Investigators are working on a theory he may have been distracted as he fiddled with his video camera and slipped.

A well-known figure across the town, Mr Staplehurst had worked tirelessly in his role of trustee of the Willesborough Windmill Society. He was also involved in the Ashford Twinning Association and Friends of Hopewell.

Mr Staplehurst was walking with a guide in the Robberg Nature Reserve with his second wife Anne when the accident occurred. His son has subsequently flown out to be with her.

A post-mortem is expected to be heard in South Africa on Thursday and an inquest soon after. Once that is complete the body will be released and his widow and son will make the painful journey back home.

Now friends are preparing to organise a remembrance service in the near future.

The couple had been slightly ahead of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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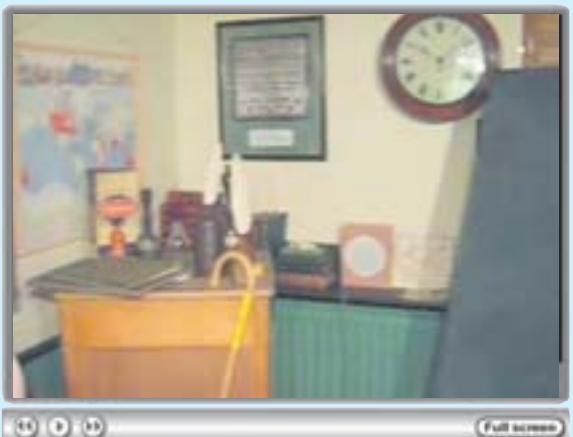
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2 Visit a Victorian classroom - complete with cane.
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3 Is it time to dredge Ramsgate harbour? You be the judge.
 See the community channel and search 'Ramsgate'

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LONG WALK: Will Gow, far right, is thrilled to have made it to the South Pole

Trekkers follow in footsteps of their ancestors

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

AN adventurer who walked 900 miles to the South Pole says he is pleased to have settled some unfinished family business.

Will Gow, from Aldington, is a descendent of the legendary Nimrod explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, who a century ago abandoned his attempt to become the first man to complete the mammoth trek across Antarctica.

But 35-year-old Mr Gow and his two companions managed to do what their ancestors could not when they reached the South Pole last week.

Speaking to Yourashford from the pole, Mr Gow said: "It was quite a relief to complete the challenge after 66 days of travelling. It's been a fantastic experience and we are all pretty shattered."

Mr Gow normally works as an overseas business development specialist in the city.

He said: "It was tougher than I expected and we regularly experienced temperatures as low as -50C. Living in those conditions was challenging but we spent about five years training for it, which paid dividends.

"Ernest Shackleton was my great-great-uncle, and he got to within 97 miles of the South Pole. To try to beat that mark and then actually go all the

way was a unique opportunity for us and a great way to celebrate the centenary of his attempt."

Mr Gow's two companions on the expedition were Henry Adams, 33, from Suffolk, and Lt Col Henry Worsley, 47, from Hereford.

Mr Adams is the great-great-grandson of Shackleton's number two Jamesson Adams, while Mr Worsley is a descendant of skipper Frank Worsley.

Rather than follow the route to the South Pole taken by most people who venture there today, the team decided to stick to the tougher path their ancestors took back in 1909 – one that only two groups have completed since.

Mr Gow said: "It was quite emotional when we reached the end, yet slightly anti-climactic at the same time. But once we started to soak up the atmosphere of being at the South Pole, it felt very rewarding after all the effort we put in.

"I just can't wait to get back to the UK now so I can see my girlfriend Louise and my father again."

The expedition also marked the launch of the £10 million Shackleton Foundation, which will fund projects that "capture the explorer's spirit and hunger for calculated risk".

Mr Gow added: "Part of the reason we did this was to mark the centenary of the golden age of exploration, but we also wanted to complete unfinished family business and leave a legacy for future generations."

Paramedics failed in attempt to revive him

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

group and near the finish of their walk when the accident happened.

Mr Staplehurst, from Windmill Close, was midway through a conversation with his wife when he slipped over the edge. He landed 50ft below on a ledge. Attempts by paramedics to revive him failed.

Henk Nieuwoudt, conservation manager at Plettenberg Bay where the couple were staying, said: "His wife was in absolute shock. You are talking to your life partner and then the next moment he's dead. She screamed for help and other hikers in the tour party came to her assistance.

"One minute her husband was there and the next moment he was gone. We suspect he lost his balance or tripped and fell. Maybe he got distracted while filming."

The former banker lived close to the windmill he had spent much time working on.

Councillor Bob Davidson, a fellow trustee of the Willesborough Windmill Society and a close friend of Mr Staplehurst, said: "He was seen as a very proud man, upstanding in the local community.

"He was an original member of the team who started the restoration of Willesborough Windmill.

"This led him to being appointed a trustee of the mill. He was also involved in the Ashford Twinning Association and Friends of Hopewell where he built up many friends from France, Germany and America."

It was while showing a school party around the windmill that Mr Staplehurst met his second wife Anne, who was accompanying the youngsters.

Mr Davidson added: "Both Tony and Anne had a love of travelling. They wanted to get the most out of life when they could.

"He went out of his way to ensure that all he took part in was seen to be successful. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him."

Terry Stock, from the Friends of Hopewell group, said: "He was a very active member of our group and our vice chairman. We were so sad to hear the news when his wife Anne told us on the phone."



TOGETHER: Tony with his second wife Anne

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Emirates to be as accessible as Ashford Town FC

EXCLUSIVE

BY ED HILL

FOOTBALL fans will be able to get to Arsenal's Emirates Stadium by public transport from the centre of town in almost the same time as it takes to make the journey to the home of Ashford Town FC.

Yourashford compared the travel times when the new super fast train service to London kicks in this December.

Incredibly, fans will be able to leave Ashford and reach the Premiership ground in just 46 minutes.

Yet catching a bus from the town centre's Vicarage Lane car park heading towards the Homelands in Kingsnorth will take 43 minutes – just THREE minutes shorter.

Ashford to St Pancras on one of the new Hitachi trains will take just 37 minutes.



IN REACH: The high speed rail link will make it just as quick to get to an Arsenal home game as an Ashford one

Transport for London's website then suggests a six minute tube trip and a three minute stroll will take you to your seat at the Emirates.

Fans of our non-league heroes, however, must endure a 17-minute bus ride to the Tesco supermarket at Park Farm, then WALK the 26-minute remainder of the journey.

Town fan Tom Cox said: "It is a laughable discovery – and one which shows how the Homelands so desperately needs a direct bus service."

Mind you, it will be considerably cheaper watching the Nuts and Bolts in action – the cost of a ticket to see Arsene Wenger's men in the Premiership can cost anywhere between £42 to £92. You can enjoy the hospitality at the Homelands for a mere £8.

What's more, the train fare is likely to be steep too – with the ticket price set to be up a third on existing prices for the speedy service. Then, of course, there's the small issue of laying your hands on one of the gold-dust tickets for the Premier League giants.

But it puts getting to other nearby grounds in the shade.

The quickest train journey to watch the mighty Gillingham in League Two action at Priestfield takes an hour and 28 minutes – which includes a 25-minute hike to get from Canterbury West to Canterbury East station. Even driving, according to Google, takes 45 minutes.

Fans of Championship strugglers Charlton Athletic face a 65-minute car trip or an hour and 36 minutes on the train.

Dan Tolhurst from Arsenal FC said: "The faster service the new high speed link is providing will definitely make the journey for our Kent supporters much easier."

A flood of roads chaos ahead of us

HEAVY rain caused chaos on the borough's roads on Friday as rivers burst their banks.

And there has been a warning of more disruption to come if forecast rain rolls in over the coming week.

On Friday, motorists looking to reach the Civic Centre by Tannery Lane had to turn around after the River Stour broke its banks and flooded the Stour Centre car park under several inches of water.

Flooding was also reported in Mersham and Willesborough as around 20mm of rain fell in just 12 hours.

Farmers awoke to find fields under water and many roads impassable. Fire crews were called to help stranded motorists, while the weather caused rush hour traffic lights to fail at the junction of North Street and Somerset Road.

A council spokesman said: "The situation was closely monitored and Tannery Lane reopened when it was safe to do so."

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Take the ring road in five minutes... at night. Search 'ring road'

Anniversary is a blooming achievement

ASHFORD Flower Club is marking its 50th anniversary – plus that of the National Association of Flower Arrangers – in style.

All this week it has a special display of blooms on show to the thousands of shoppers who flock to the County Square shopping complex.

And not only does it help cure the winter blues, it is putting a spring in the step of those popping down to the centre.

The popular club is no stranger to showcasing its floral arrangement talents.

Last year it exhibited at the world famous Chelsea Flower Show. What's more it scooped a Silver Gilt Award for its creation.

Now this week, shoppers are being treated to a range of vibrant colours including purple, gold and lime green and displays made up of roses, gerberas and chrysanthemums.

Shopper Gladys Ames from Park Farm said: "I think it's a wonderful idea. To see such beautiful colours and life when it is so cold and miserable outside really cheers me up."

Two members of the Ashford Flower Club are on hand every day throughout the week to answer any questions shoppers may have.

Rural businesses to benefit from new funding opportunity

RURAL projects in the borough will receive a shot in the arm thanks to new funding from the European Union.

At a launch event at the Singleton Environment Centre, groups concerned with rural issues gathered to hear how they could bid for a slice of the £2.25 million available.

Areas in Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Maidstone, Medway, Shepway and Swale will qualify for the money.

Farmers, business people and community representatives will be able to bid for up to £50,000 worth of funding for a project over the five-year period.

The scheme is aimed to help them develop new food products, create innovative new tourism schemes and back community-led projects.

Richard Long, Kent County Council's member for regeneration said: "It is so good to be able to give our rural businesses and communities a helping hand as we are all feeling the effects of the economic downturn."

Applications for funding can be made at www.kentruralnetwork.org.uk/leader.

In the Ashford area the grants will be part of the Kent Downs and Marshes Leader rural funding programme with KCC taking care of the administration.

The money has come through under the EU's Rural Development Programme for England, and Defra through Seeda.

Sally Newall who runs Simply Ice Cream in Aldington said: "In this climate we need help."

"There are a lot of small businesses that would really benefit from something like this."

Kent County Council spokesman Phil Scrivener said: "Each application is determined by a local action group that set the priorities and whether it is a justifiable scheme."

"For example one successful project in the past was Wealden Wheels that supplied a transport service around villages like Charing, and was run by volunteers."

Applications for funding can be made at www.kentruralnetwork.org.uk/leader.

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Cops continue to quiz man over 'attempted murder'

POLICE were yesterday given permission to further quiz a man over an alleged attempted murder in Hamstreet.

Officers were called to a house in Rectory Walk, Cock Lane, at 9.30pm on Sunday, where they found a woman unconscious. She was rushed to the William Harvey Hospital where her condition, as of Tuesday morning, remained 'critical'.

Police applied to magistrates yesterday for a further warrant of detention.

Local dementia services on Alzheimer's agenda

THE Ashford and Shepway branch of the Alzheimer's Society will be meeting at Hawkinge community centre on Wednesday, February 4.

The group wants to hear about how services for those suffering from dementia can be improved. The meeting will begin at 10am.

The charity also runs an outreach service for those seeking advice and information about the condition. To find out more, call Jo Jones on 01233 643648.

Have a heart and enter Holiday Inn quiz night

A QUIZ night in aid of the British Heart Foundation will be held at the Holiday Inn, on the Canterbury Road, on Friday.

It costs £42 for a team of six and the price includes ploughman's lunches. All proceeds raised will go to the charity. The quiz is part of National Heart Month, which raises awareness of good heart health. To enter a team, or for more information, call Lynette Wood on 07736 746064.

Raising a glass at Chapel Down with TV expert

RICHARD and Judy's TV wine expert, Joe Wadsack, will be in Tenterden on Friday.

The former Wine Communicator of the Year will give budding connoisseurs the chance to learn a little more about the wine-making process when he appears at the Chapel Down vineyard. The writer and broadcaster will demonstrate his expertise and answer wine-related questions from 7.30pm. The event runs until 11pm.

To reserve a place, call 01580 761616.

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Give local people and firms a say in design

■ BY ED HILL

RECRUITING a design guru to help shape the next generation of buildings in the borough is unnecessary, according to a local architect.

He says failure to look at the bigger picture and the insistence on fees at the earliest stage of the planning process is preventing the ironing out of potential problems.

Council chiefs, keen to ensure the town looks like a place people will want to live and work in, want a design champion to promote best practice in the town's new buildings.

Mark Hall is head of the general practice team of Westwell-based Cyma Architects and has been involved in buildings that have won awards from the council.

He told Yourashford: "We often find ourselves battling with the planners and we work in a very considered historical style of building. They can be too concerned with things such as ridge heights and eave heights, without looking at the holistic design.

"Slavishly following rules in the Kent Design Guide can lead to bad buildings when you lose sight of the bigger picture.

"It has become harder for architects to make informal representations to planners now that fees have been introduced for initial enquiries.

"There was a time when an architect could



PICTURED HILL

DESIGN FOR LIFE: New homes in South Ashford are helping to reshape the look of our town

chat to planners. That saved a lot of time and money. That has gone, to the detriment of design. These small things would make a bigger difference to the standard of design than bringing in a big, headline-grabbing name."

The council says it does charge a 'highly competitive' price for initial enquiries for commercial projects - but not residential plans, such as home extensions.

Mr Hall welcomed the idea of an independent design panel, but hoped local practices would have some input.

He said: "We often feel left out and on the sidelines. We are well placed to really do some-

thing special, but we don't have the clout a bigger practice would have."

He added: "If you look historically how cities and towns developed without planning, it can often be seen as more successful than the planned environment. When people build their own environment, they make sure they do it well."

Clr John Kemp, portfolio holder for planning and development, said: "The Design Panel will be made up of well-respected designers from the region to advise on emerging development projects and the drafting of local design guidance."

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Joy as Brussels back on menu

TOWN officials have welcomed news direct Eurostar services to Brussels from Ashford International are returning next month.

As we reported last week, the service resumes on February 23 - two weeks earlier than expected.

Judith Armitt, managing director of Ashford's Future, said: "We have been working hard to make the case for a daily Ashford service and are delighted Eurostar has recognised the commercial value of reinstating it."

"Ashford is a fast-growing, vibrant location and with so many new homes and jobs coming to the town good transport links are essential."

The service had been due to resume last year, but the Channel Tunnel fire in September put the plans on hold.

Clr Paul Clokie, the leader of Ashford council, said: "I am delighted Eurostar has listened to rail users and responded to what is clearly a strong demand. Having a direct service to Brussels will be a massive boost not only to the development of Ashford but to the regeneration of Kent and other parts of the south east."

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POINTED DEBATE: Phillip Thorne says his shared space concerns were prompted by his mother's sight problems

I want debate not hate, says Facebook Phillip

■ BY ED HILL

AS THE popularity of Ashford's shared space scheme grows, the man behind a Facebook site poking fun at the town's efforts says it is not simply a "hate campaign against the local authorities".

The group on the popular online social networking site has swelled to almost 1,300 members since it was set up in November to raise concerns about the road scheme.

But despite many members swapping scare stories about shared space – the group's title is 'Ashford's shared space is an accident waiting to happen' – the man who set it up says it was purely to raise a legitimate concern and not to slate the local authorities.

Television presenter Jeremy Clarkson, of the BBC's Top Gear motoring show, has also attacked the project, calling it dangerous and a waste of money.

Yet it is fulfilling a crucial role in the regeneration of the town through its ability to break the stranglehold of the ring road.

Shared space received another boost this week when Spelthorne council in Surrey said it was considering a similar scheme for Staines town centre.

Phill Thorne set up the Facebook group because his mother, who has one eye, felt the

new scheme had restricted her independence. He said: "I am proud of my mum and how she has overcome her sight problems. I felt something needed to be said for those people.

"The site has led to a lot of heated debate. Some people are for the scheme, others against it. Some want to point out the mistakes they think have been made. It's all about raising awareness – this is not some sort of hate campaign against the local authorities."

The main concerns among members are the ability for pedestrians to make eye contact with drivers in the shared space scheme and the speed of traffic along Elwick Road.

Mr Thorne said: "Traffic is still travelling faster than 20mph. Any pedestrian would rightly hesitate before stepping into a road with cars travelling at 30 or even 40mph."

However, Mr Thorne is positive about many of the aspects of the scheme.

He said: "Something had to be done about the old ring road. When all the development is done on the other side of Elwick Square I think it will be excellent and shared space will have to work because there will be a lot more pedestrians."

Brave step or a grave error? Have your say

SHARED space continues to be a hot topic and you can see Phillip Thorne being interviewed – then trying to cross the road – on our free broadband TV website www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

To view the clip, search 'shared space'. Mr Thorne's site raises legitimate concerns about the scheme, yet those in favour of it believe it is a brave step which could pay huge dividends.

What is your view? Join the debate and email us: yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk or write to: Yourashford, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Shopper's Designer Outlet prize is going to the dogs

A SHOPPER who scooped £12,000 in a competition at the Ashford Designer Outlet has pledged to spend his winnings on saving abandoned dogs.

Paul Barber, 36, won the cash after the outlet gave shoppers the chance to win their mortgage paid for a year or a lump sum.

He intends to use the money to foster dogs until they can be permanently housed with a new owner.

The outlet's Natasha Phair said: "We're glad Paul was chosen. It's great knowing the money will be used for a worthwhile cause."

Mr Barber, from Minster, said: "My wife Sharon and I are dog lovers. Our dogs are more like family members than pets."

"It was an amazing surprise when I found out I had won."

Foundation's fundraisers

TWO fundraising events next month will help the Smeeth-based Caldecott Foundation.

Caldecott provides residential care, education and fostering services for children who have suffered cruelty and neglect. But it will be all smiles and laughter on Friday, February 6, when it stages Kids 4 Kids, a music and entertainment show, at Ashford International Hotel. And on Valentine's Day, Caldecott will host Prosecco e Dolci, a black-tie Italian-themed night with band.

Telephone 01303 815697 or email Samantha.scott@caldecottfoundation.co.uk for details.

Green plans on the road

WANT to learn more about the development of Chilmington Green? Ashford council is holding two public surgeries next week.

The events, on Thursday, February 5, will give people a chance to look at the latest plans for the area, including housing, transport, design quality, sustainability and facilities.

Council staff will be on hand to discuss the conclusions reached at other public workshops. The meetings will be at Shadoxhurst village hall from 5pm-6pm, then at Great Chart Primary School from 7pm-8.30pm.

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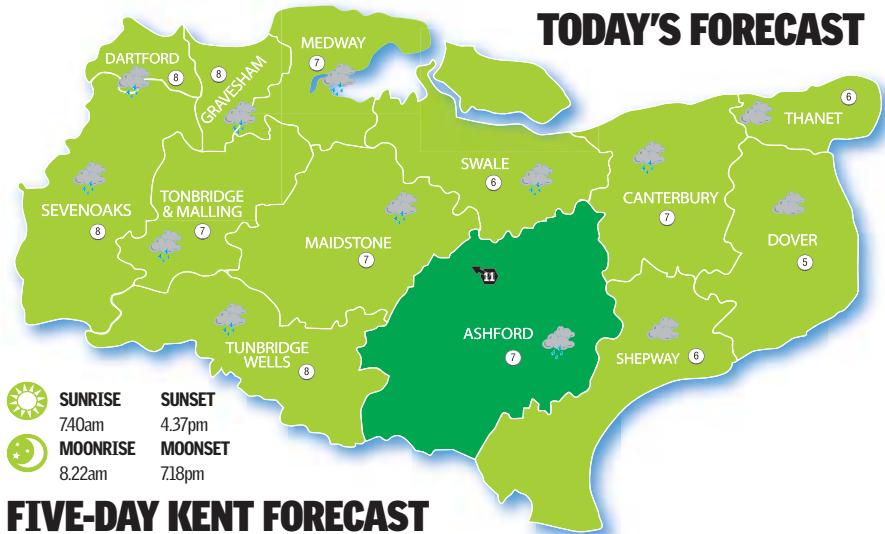
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	Sunday	4:29pm	5.6m
Dover	Saturday	1:50pm	6.2m
	Sunday	2:26pm	6.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:55pm	7.4m
	Sunday	2:36pm	7.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:20pm	4.8m
	Sunday	2:56pm	4.7m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:41pm	5.5m
	Sunday	4:18pm	5.3m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:34pm	5.0m
	Sunday	4:10pm	5.0m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		
Ashford	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C	Gravesend	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C
Canterbury	7°C	6°C	5°C	7°C	5°C	Maidstone	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C
Chatham	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C	Ramsgate	7°C	6°C	5°C	7°C	5°C
Dartford	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C	Rochester	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C
Dover	7°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	5°C	Sevenoaks	6°C	6°C	5°C	6°C	5°C
Faversham	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C	Sittingbourne	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C
Folkestone	7°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	5°C	Tonbridge	7°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C
Gillingham	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C	Tun Wells	7°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C

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Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	7°C	Tokyo	9°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	3°C
Hong Kong	13°C	Warsaw	3°C
Las Palmas	18°C	Wellington	24°C

Charity aims to track down London Marathon runners

GOT a precious place to run this year's Flora London Marathon? Then one of the county's leading children's charities would like to hear from you.

Demelza House is looking for any runner accepted for the race, and looking to raise money for charity, to consider running in aid of its efforts for sick youngsters.

In exchange, the charity will offer a sponsor pack, running vest and invite the runner to a special reception at the hospice after the marathon where they'll get a chance to see how their hard-earned sponsorship money is being spent.

Clare Emmett, marathon co-ordinator at Demelza, said: "The support we have received over the last couple of years from the London Marathon runners has been amazing. Here's to a bigger and better 2009."

The Flora London Marathon takes place along the streets of the city on April 26 with thousands of runners set to take part in the annual 26-mile race. Traditionally over-subscribed, it is the biggest single fundraising day for charities up and down the UK.

For the 2009 race more than 92,000 applied for the 50,000 available places.

The hospice near Sittingbourne offers assistance to terminally ill children and their families and has facilities to house people on site as well as visit them at home.

If you are interested in joining the team contact Clare Emmett in the fundraising department on 01795 845204 or email clare.emmett@demelza.org.uk.



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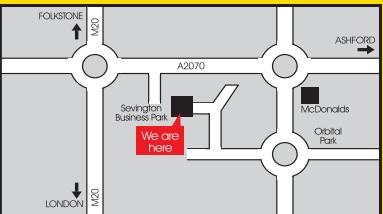
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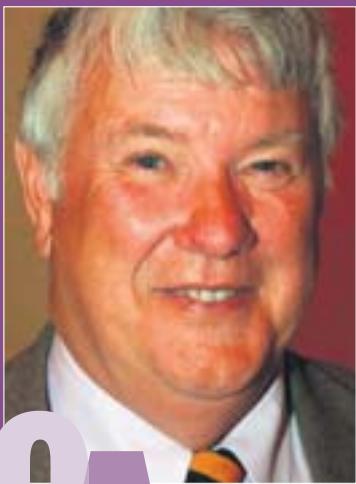
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QUESTION & ANSWER

ROBERT DAVIDSON



Q & A

Cllr Robert Davidson is leader of the Liberal Democrat group on Ashford council. He discusses his views on the changing face of the town and the state of local democracy, with reporter **Ed Hill**

Q How long have you been connected with Ashford?

A I arrived in Ashford in the 1980s, having been posted to Templar Barracks as part of my military career. Having completed my term of service, I remained in the area.

Q What do you think of the changes that have happened over the years?

A I have seen Ashford change from a market town and, before that, a railway town. I've experienced the closure of the railway works and moving the market out of the town centre.

As a councillor, I am now part of working towards a new Ashford of the future with all the developments and changes taking place.

We will have to wait and see how future generations see the changes and how they will affect their lives.

Q If you were to try and persuade someone to come to Ashford, what would you say?

A Ashford offers people the opportunity to settle into a new community environment and a better place to live, with close connections to Europe and London and attractive, open and unspoiled countryside.

Q What do you think of the state of local democracy? Is it healthy in the borough?

A After government changes to the structure of local democracy, I do not believe it is

healthy. The ruling party is able to bring in changes with little opposition – other than a token listening gesture.

Q How do you think the town can create a sense of community given the big changes that are expected?

A It will be difficult for Ashford during this period to create a sense of community. The established community has a sense of the past and might resist change, while the younger generations will accept it.

Communities are formed over time. Today there are too many changes and too much movement of families.

Q Can you think of one thing that could be changed that would really help the town?

A Any new development in any area of the town must be completed on time and on budget.

People should not be subjected to long delays that might have an effect on their day-to-day lives.

Q What impact do you think the credit crunch and global economic downturn will have on jobs, housing and business in the borough?

A Ashford is already suffering from the downturn, illustrated by the fact the council has a large overspend due to the reduction in income.

Future development may also slow down.

Housing has already been affected, especially for any families placing their homes on the market. Ashford has a huge open market in relation to housing.

This may result in difficulties for Ashford council in delivering growth in the time given.

Services may also be affected, with redundancies possible in many areas of employment throughout our light industrial and service areas.

Q When not involved in local politics, what do you do?

A I have a commitment to youth through being chairman of Ashford Scouts. I am also vice-president of Ashford Hospital Radio, carrying out a live broadcast every Sunday afternoon.

I am president of Ashford Arthritis Care, which involves fundraising; a trustee of Willesborough Windmill, a member of Willesborough Community Forum, trustee of two local charity organisations, a local community councillor and a school governor.

Q If you were marooned on a desert island – aside from the family – who would you want your only companion to be and why?

A My companion would be a radio, with lots of batteries or solar-powered, so I could listen to music, local topics, news and not need to keep it on if I do not wish to listen.

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Royston Price on his BBC charity award nomination. Search 'Macular Disease'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

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The sky's the limit for your special one

■ BY JON COATES

WE HAVE found the ultimate present for your Valentine – a helicopter lesson.

Kent is lucky enough to have one of the best helicopter pilot training schools in the UK.

AV8 Helicopters, at Rochester Airport, offers introductory flying lessons so you can experience the thrill of taking control of a helicopter.

So if you're looking to sweep your Valentine off their feet, this could be the answer. I went along to Rochester Airport this week for a 30-minute introductory flight to find out more.

Experiencing a mix of excitement and trepidation, I was introduced to my instructor Richard Cooke, 61, and immediately relieved to find myself in safe hands.

He introduced me to the Robinson R22 helicopter we would be going up in and I was stunned by how small it was.

This is the most popular aircraft for training pilots as it is very light and therefore sensitive to the touch.

Richard first explained the three flying controls – the cyclic stick used to speed up, slow down and go left or right, the collective lever used to make the craft rise or fall and two foot pedals used to control the tail rotor.

For the trial flight you only take control of the cyclic stick in flight, but it's good to understand the basics before taking off.

Richard stressed how sensitive the stick is and explained where we would be flying and that once we were levelled out and settled in to a cruise the controls would be passed to me.

The Robinson R22 has a perspex canopy (the



Picture: SARAH STANTON/AV8

MIND BLOWING: Jon Coates takes to the sky in a truly unforgettable experience flying a helicopter

front windscreens) stretching down to near your feet, which gives an incredible view and makes you feel like you're floating on air.

It was an amazing feeling just lifting off with the whole of Medway stretching in front of me as we headed towards Leeds Castle. Then after just a few minutes I gripped the control stick and was flying.

Despite the safety warnings I immediately sent us veering off to the right. But Richard soon corrected me and I managed to keep a straight course, which is the aim of the introductory lesson. As I relaxed and my confidence grew I was able to look around and take in the stunning views, having been blessed with clear blue skies on a rare sunny winter day.

The feeling of keeping it straight and level, and speeding up to make small alterations in direction to the left or right was brilliant.

AV8 run 20-minute introductory flights for £130 plus VAT, 30-minute flights for £147.50 plus VAT and hour flights for £255 plus VAT, which are perfect gifts or birthday presents.

After the trial flight if you're as hooked as me then you need a minimum of 45 hours of lessons to get your private pilot's licence, at a cost of £255 plus VAT per hour.

They also offer flights in executive helicopters over London and Hellfire Corner in Kent for £150 per person plus VAT.

• For details call AV8 on 01634 672288, email info@av8helicopters.co.uk or see www.av8helicopters.co.uk.

Finishing school to help motivate our youngsters

TROUBLESOME teenagers are being invited to clean up their act by attending a modern-day version of a finishing school.

Shy youngsters and those with low self-esteem have also taken part in the Brand You Experience, which aims to help school leavers prepare for working life through a series of motivational workshops.

The scheme, which started in Dover last year and is now being extended to Maidstone, is a joint initiative between Kent County Council and mentoring and coaching organisation Beyond Excellence.

Project leader Dean Martin said: "Some of the schools used the course as a means of rewarding pupils who weren't troublemakers but who rarely shined in the classroom. But then we had some who were bouncing off the walls and others who had very low opinions of themselves and perhaps weren't receiving the right support at home."

The next Brand You Experience course runs for five days from Monday, February 16, at Bradbourne House, East Malling, Maidstone. Each session runs from 9.30am until 3.30pm daily, and Mr Martin is encouraging potential employers to visit and offer their support to the youngsters.

He said: "We have found from talking to young people and employers that they are often poles apart in what they expect from each other."

For more details on the scheme call Mr Martin on 01843 844939.



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Anglers unite to tackle 'outrageous' EU scheme

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

EU PLANS to limit the amount of fish amateur anglers can catch will harm the shops and businesses that rely on the popular hobby, say opponents.

Boat charter companies, tackle shops and other businesses could suffer unless the European Union withdraws what many insiders believe is an unfair ruling for recreational fishermen in the UK.

The plans are aimed at clamping down on Continental fishermen who use large nets to gather fish to feed their families.

If the EU does not back down, skippers who take tourists on sea-angling trips off Kent's coast and those who fish from piers will have to abide by the same quota rules as commercial fishermen throughout Europe.

Kent Charter Fishing owner Dave Hancock said: "This could slaughter our business, but



CAUGHT OUT: UK anglers are upset at planned quotas

we may have no choice but to deal with it.

"It would make life very difficult and mean we would have to fish for different species and record every catch, which would be a big hassle. If you put our catches beside the amount caught by commercial fishermen, the numbers are insignificant. It doesn't seem fair. We want things to stay the way they are."

Kent MEP Daniel Hannan, who is a member of the European Parliament's committee on fisheries, said: "It's outrageous that they

are extending this policy to recreational anglers. When large-scale commercial fishing in places such as Margate dried up, people started taking tourists out on angling trips on boats instead.

"For them to have to register their catch is preposterous. But I think there's a reasonable chance of stopping this going through. I'm fairly confident we'll be able to fix it."

About 1.4 million people enjoy sea fishing off Britain, creating about 20,000 jobs in the process. The newly-formed Angling Trust has promised to fight the new proposals all the way and is encouraging recreational fishermen to contact their MEPs.

Member Leon Rokilly said: "We would like the two sectors [commercial and recreational] to be regulated differently and more appropriately, because if this goes through it will have a hell of an impact."

"We're having meetings with Defra and the European Anglers' Alliance. There's been a furore over this – whoever came up with this regulation can't have imagined they would receive such a reaction."

Police frustration at violent crime statistical error

A LEADING Kent police officer has voiced "frustration" over the force's misreporting of serious violent crimes in the county.

Kent Police were among 18 forces that had incorrectly counted the numbers of the most serious offences such as murder and grievous bodily harm (GBH) due to a change in Home Office guidance.

The county constabulary was forced to suspend serious violent offences statistics from its crime figures for the third quarter of 2008.

Acting Assistant Chief Constable Peter West said: "It is frustrating, in so much as when there are new crime recording and differences introduced and the guidance that goes with it, it takes a period of settling down."

"We have suspended our figures because of applying the wrong interpretation to the guidelines, but we will know the figures before the end of the financial year," Mr West added.

"Serious violent crime was 6.3 per cent of our total – 1,277 out of 20,204 – and when we have gone through every one with the most recent guidance, every indication is that the figure will fall."

He said the changes did not alter the fact that violent crime in the county was falling. Kent showed a nine per cent reduction in total violent crime.

Innovative midwives rewarded by reduction in caesarean rates

MIDWIVES in Kent have developed an idea that has seen caesarean section rates drop by five per cent.

Concerns have been raised that caesarean rates, which had doubled in 10 years, are too high and the NHS has been working to ensure more women have normal births.

Sarah Gregson, a consultant midwife for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, entered her team into the Royal College of

Midwives (RCM) annual awards in the innovation category.

They arranged for the midwife caring for a woman in labour to fill in a form every hour noting information such as changes of position and keeping the woman upright. Midwives also encourage different support strategies, such as using water.

And their work, which has cut caesarian rates, was placed in the UK top three at a cer-

emony at the Royal Garden Hotel in London.

The audit tool, devised in 2003 by a group of midwives led by Hilary Thomas at Pembury Hospital, was used again during 2007-08.

Mrs Gregson said: "C-section rates have doubled across the UK but we have not been saving more mothers or babies because of it."

Maternity services are looking at how we can increase normal births because there are health benefits for both mother and child."

Research shows that women who give birth normally are more likely to breast feed, which is best for the newborn. During the second trial of the audit, caesarean rates dropped by two per cent overall from 26 per cent of births in 2007 to 23.4 per cent in 2008.

Mrs Gregson said that while C-sections were important for women experiencing serious complications or with medical conditions, many were being carried out unnecessarily.

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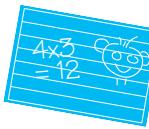


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yourashfordschools



AWARDED: From left, winner Rebecca Wilmott, Jo Manning and winner Alyssa Homer from South Kent College

Class Angels are a cut above the rest at college

AN award scheme set up in memory of a former Ashford hair and beauty student who died tragically in a car crash, has rewarded two of South Kent College's top students.

The Gemma Croft Memorial fund was set up by friends and students at the college following her death four years ago.

And this month two students had it to thank as their efforts were rewarded by receiving £100 in vouchers each.

Rebecca Wilmott, 30, from Greatstone in New Romney and Alyssa Homer, 20, from Elythorne near Dover, were given Class Angel awards for their high standard of work and good attendance.

The initiative aims to recognise the achievements of students on the course and help them with funding for equipment.

Ms Homer was nominated by her tutor Christine McAlister, who said she had made amazing progress since coming back into education.

She said: "I was gobsmacked when I was told I was a Class Angel. I didn't really go to school. But when I started the beauty course, it just came naturally to me.

"Everyone is very friendly and I just want

■ BY ED HILL

to try everything and get on."

Rebecca Wilmott, who decided to take up the course in addition to bringing up her children, said she was surprised by how much she loved it.

She said: "I was a bit of a tomboy at school and then I worked in an office. I chose this because I thought it would fit in with my children.

"My sister is a hairdresser so I thought I would give this a go and it is so interesting.

"I just want to learn and keep learning. I volunteer for everything."

Gemma Croft's mother Jo Manning presented the Class Angel awards to the winners.

Ms Homer said: "It's so nice that her family remember Gemma in this way."

Both Class Angels hope to run their own businesses when they qualify.

The Gemma Croft Memorial Fund has raised more than £2,000 to enable students to continue their education and enhance their future careers.

For details about South Kent College, which has campuses in Ashford, Folkestone and Dover, visit www.southkent.ac.uk or visit its open days, March 19 or May 14, 3pm-8pm.

BREAK TIME



PROGRESS: School redevelopment is taking shape

A spokesperson for the school said: "Some of the teachers at Ashford Friars Prep were lucky enough to walk around the ground floor last week and from the outline impression it is going to be bright, lovely and spacious with superb access to the outside courtyard and play areas."

"We are most fortunate to have such a wonderful investment in such times and everyone in Great Chart is looking forward to being back on one site with such significantly enhanced facilities."

School has its site set on the future

DEVELOPMENTS at the Friars Prep School in Great Chart are rapidly moving along as the new term begins.

The school is undergoing major redevelopment at the moment with new buildings and car parking spaces being built.

A webcam is being pointed at the new buildings as they are being built to keep parents and children up to date with the progress.

Aye, it's a proper Burns celebration

BENENDEN Church of England Primary School will be holding a Burns Night celebration on February 7.

Guests can enjoy a three-course meal and cocktails along with Scottish dancing and poetry.

Tickets are on sale at £12.50 each and can be obtained from class representatives, PTA members and the school office.

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yourashfordblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Ashford...

Why we should wrap TV star Brian Cant up in cotton wool

FIRST Oliver Postgate and now Tony Hart. For those 30-something things weaned on a diet of BBC children's TV of the Seventies and early Eighties, these are dark times indeed.

There is perhaps nothing more likely to bring home to you that youth has truly passed you by and you're entering an older generation, than when entertainers from your childhood start shuffling off this mortal coil.

It was bad enough when, quite recently, I learned the chap who played Timothy Claypole in *Rentaghost* had died years earlier. Timothy Claypole? Dead? What is the world coming to?

But while Oliver Postgate's creations such as Bagpuss and Ivor the Engine will live on, Tony Hart's death was particularly sad.

Postgate was always a man whose fame grew by his name appearing in the credits of so

many programmes. His face was anonymous.

But for many years, Hart was the embodiment of children's telly. He would occupy a slot prior to *Grange Hill* or *Blue Peter* and dazzle us with his gentle artistic talents.

A huge city skyline at night was always a speciality – created on a huge black canvas on the floor; it only becoming apparent what he was creating as a camera staring down from the ceiling brought it to life.

But he was more than that. He was a kindly old uncle; a figure with authority and a sense of fun but with none of the overt 'silliness' which pervades the schedules for youngsters today.

I can remember quite clearly joining an art club at infant school as they promised to send work off to the BBC to try and appear in Hart's *The Gallery*. The Gallery was perhaps the earliest form of reality TV. As muzza played in the background the camera simply panned 'art' submitted by school children up and down the land. I once met someone who had indeed been fortunate enough to have their work displayed

during this section of the show and I was left in awe.

But Hart did not work alone ploughing a lonely furrow as a key component of children's television. Oh no, he had help. There was Morph. A little brown plasticine figure who lived in Hart's art box – the grandfather to Wallace and Gromit and a creation of future Oscar-winner Nick Park. I assume he, Morph that is, still lives on and is currently in mourning for Hart. Cripes, if he still lives in that box I hope someone knows and can let him out for a stretch of his legs, otherwise we could face another tragedy.

In the meantime we must treasure those that remain. Mrs McCluskey from *Grange Hill* take good care of yourself. Brian Cant, keep safe and warm. Johnny Ball – think of a big number and live the equivalent in years.

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TALK TIME

ANDREW DAVIES

Andrew Davies, owner of the Davies Family Bakery in Beaver Lane discusses his business



How did you get into the business?

I started here as a Saturday boy and then joined after leaving school. I did a three-year apprenticeship and then was head baker here for ten years. I then bought the business seven years ago.

I always wanted to do something in food and after doing work experience here I was lucky the previous owner gave me the job.

How is business for an independent baker?

We get a lot of passing business and are always very busy in the mornings. We also have a big wholesale service and supply a lot of other businesses and places around Ashford. A lot of smaller bakers have had to go down that road in order to survive. We offer lots of different services including cake making and decorating.

Generally, the industry has got a good future. People like to buy their bread from somewhere where they know the people who have made it. We do everything here from scratch. Nothing is bought in ready-made.

What would you say to someone thinking of taking up baking as a career?

Finding good qualified staff is difficult and that can be what stops a business growing. My son started in the business six months ago. It can be hard. The hours can be unsociable. When I was young it was hard seeing my mates coming back from town after having a good time and I was working. It is a big commitment but in the long term it really paid off. I still have that passion for it now.

YOUR LETTERS



Adventurers are a tache fashionable

Congratulations to Will Gow and his colleagues for completing their trek to the South Pole.

And how very fortunate that the colours of their beards – if your front page picture was anything to go by – matched the colour of the fur on their coats. It amused me.

C Houghton
Kennington

A fast track to angry commuters

Generally people live this side of London because they need to travel to a south London station.

These passengers will have to suffer cuts to provide resources for the new fast service very few people will use, due to either the inflated fare or ending up in the wrong part of London.

Surely if Southeastern are to axe existing services it would be



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better to keep one fast service an hour, instead of getting rid of three and retaining 'all station' services?

It is, as one gentleman said, as if by removing all fast services from existing routes they are trying

to force passengers from Ashford onto the St Pancras service.

This service should have been resourced without axing what passengers currently use.

Name and address withheld

Confiscation plan, I'll drink to that

What a very good idea to implement a scheme where police can confiscate alcohol in certain areas.

So many of the social ills of this world are caused by drink and this sounds like a sensible solution to cracking down on it in Ashford.

I fully support it.

Todd Jones
Park Farm

Drink ban infringes our civil liberties

I would hesitate to support the drink ban the police have proposed. I fear this is a giant step now to allow police to make a small step in the future which would completely prohibit alcohol from the selected areas. Which is an infringement, surely, of our civil liberties?

J Bennett
By email

Can I reel you in to a charity event?

I would be grateful if I could draw your readers' attention to a big charity event taking place at Cranbrook's Hartley Lands Farm Fishery.

The Nick Puncher Memorial takes place on Saturday, July 11. The cost will be £20 per peg and can be booked through Mark Allingham on 07990 526 242.

Top match anglers, from the Midlands, will also be in Kent that weekend to fish the memorial match. Heading the 12 will be Neil McKinnon from

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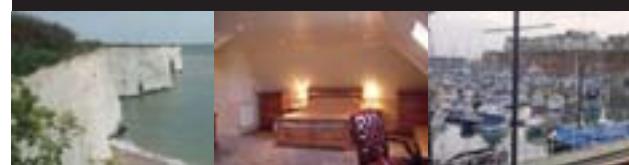
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Shakespeare Tackle and Steve Harris who will be representing bait giants SBS.

Local charities who will benefit are Kent Air Ambulance and the Weald of Kent Hospice.

Refreshments and a raffle will also be held on the day.

John Keatley
Hothfield

Government judgements are not really rock solid

I was bemused to read that the directors of Northern Rock are to share bonuses worth £8.8million.

As a mere member of the public, who 'thought' that your Government had bailed out this badly run company; and that Northern Rock was only still in existence because of 'public funds', I am deafened by the sound of silence from your lips. Perhaps you are – as you so often tell us – being 'prudent'.

But the word I would use to describe your behaviour over this, and so many other financial related judgments, is 'incompetent'.

Ian R Elliott
By email

Marketing a good idea for empty Woolworths

The suggestion the redundant Woolworths stores which occupy such prominent positions in town centres should be converted into markets is an excellent one.

This would enable small traders to have a permanent place in the high streets of major towns and build up their customer base.

It would also be of great benefit to the local economy as the most likely users of such facilities would all come from the immediate area.

A range of new stalls would be an attraction to shoppers as well.

The debate about what to do with the Woolworths sites which remain unused should end now and this excellent suggestion taken up.

Brian Murrell
By email

Good signings off the bat

With spring set to come in a month or so, it's about time Kent Cricket Club started to build for the new season.

Following last year's relegation and loss in two finals, surely there is a priority to bring in some top class players?

To my mind the batting is OK but the bowling, especially in the pace department, could do with strengthening.

The loss of Yaser Arafat is a grave blow and with the distinct possibility that either Amjad Khan and Robbie Joseph – or even both – could be involved in the England set up, resources look a little bit slim to say the least.

So let's see some good signings – above all of players who want to play for the county and are not just after a quick payday.

Philip Goodwin
By email

Gurkhas still fighting cause is not Ab Fab

The news that Joanna Lumley is yet again backing the Gurkhas in their bid to remain in this country without restrictions

is obviously good. But why does she need to keep fighting this issue?

It should have been settled ages ago and these brave men given the same rights as everybody else who can come here.

They contribute far more to this country than any number of economic migrants and the Government should be ashamed of the way it is dragging its feet over this.

Lucy Morgan
By email

Making the right decision? I wouldn't bank on it

The credit crunch has seen a number of unwelcome side issues and one of these is the vast sums of money paid to bail out banks.

It is pure nonsense as all they can then offer is to lend it back to the taxpayers who forked out in the first place at added interest rates to

pay their own wages.

Surely the best option would've been for the Government to offer tax breaks and rebates to people in work – they could spend the money and generate wealth by boosting retail trade, going shopping, taking trips to other places or putting the cash towards buying a home.

Why give it to the banks? They caused the problem in the first place.

Jerry Purnell
By email



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WIN Tickets to the London Stitch and Creative Crafts show



THE London Stitch & Creative Crafts Show comes back to London ExCeL on Thursday, February 26 to Saturday, February 28. With easy access from all major and local routes and excellent general facilities, it's no wonder this show is now a firm favourite with creative craft lovers in and around the capital.



CRAFTY EXHIBITION: TV's Create & Craft Wendy Rhodes (left) will be at the event (above) being held at London ExCeL



There will be a host of crafting celebrities to entertain, educate and pass on their skills and knowledge over the three days. Stephanie Weightman, from Ideal World and Create & Craft TV and Debbi Moore, expert crafting presenter, will both be running a programme of workshops. Joan Gordon, sewing and craft designer with over 25 years experience, will be hosting a Sewing Clinic for those wishing to pick up all the tricks of the trade and to answer all your sewing queries. Also from Create & Craft TV, Wendy Rhodes will be hosting her highly popular series of free demon-

stration lectures covering a huge range of topics.

The world of Guilds and Associations will be represented by The Embroiderers' Guild, The Guild of Silk Painters (Essex branch), Middlesex Federation of Women's Institutes and the Tower Hamlets Idea Store of Learning who will all be giving demonstrations and displays of their members' activities.

Marlene Carr, the Show Manager for this event says: "The London Stitch & Creative Crafts Show is a great day out for both the experienced and the beginner crafter. The wide range of exhibitors offer visitors every conceivable type of crafting product, demonstrations and workshops and with the excellent London ExCeL, we really will have something for everyone at this superb show."

KOS Media Publishing has 10 pairs of tickets to this great event to giveaway.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to The London Stitch Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. Closing date is February 19, 2009.

Question: When is the London Stitch and Craft show?

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Hop on over for some stone grilled treats

The Hop Pickers

PART of the popular Holiday Inn group, The Hop Pickers in Maidstone Road, Hothfield, serves a range of food to cater for all tastes.

It is open on Monday and Tuesday from 5pm to 11pm and on Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays from midday to 3pm and then

5pm to 11pm. Weekends sees the kitchen in operation from midday until 10.30pm.

The stone grill is one of the major attractions of this popular eatery and its mixed grill cooked on the stone is an extremely popular choice among discerning diners.

The restaurant has gained a glowing reputation locally with customer comments including "impressed with the stone grill and how different the meat tastes" and "delicious carvery on Sunday".

Other praise has come from a wedding

party who thanked staff for making their day so memorable and a 70th birthday party where guests were delighted to see their tables decorated with balloons.

Parties and functions are very welcome at the Hop Pickers, where former Invicta FM presenter Ali Wheeler enjoys the food.

Joanne Stockbridge who manages the establishment said: "Finding the right staff that help create an excellent atmosphere as well as promoting a range of food at the right price are all keys to success."

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Wild mushrooms in a garlic and herb sauce served on brioche bread to start. Then roast beef served in a jumbo Yorkshire pudding with seasonal vegetables. Home made Black Forest gateaux served with cream are the perfect finish. Telephone: 01233 713333

The George at Molash

Garlic field mushrooms topped with stilton are a delicious way to start. Then enjoy medallions of venison with a mushroom risotto for the main course. Complete the meal with strawberry and champagne cheesecake. Telephone: 01233 740323

The Lime Tree on the Square

Start with seared Falmouth scallops and tiger prawns brochette. Then try pan fried medallions of venison with creamy mash potato, braised red cabbage, juniper berries and red wine jus. End with chocolate fondant. Telephone: 01622 859509.



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BIG NAMES: Helen Ryan and Edward Fox are coming to Canterbury for four days of classic comedy at the Marlowe Theatre

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Boothroyd Hall, which welcomed Charles the First as a guest the night before the Battle of Edgehill.

The resolute Lady Boothroyd declares she will kill herself the moment the bulldozers begin their destructive work, but will anyone be able to change her mind?

A member of the highly regarded Fox acting dynasty, Edward has starred in some of film and TV's most notable productions. He appeared alongside Michael Caine, Robert Redford and Sir Laurence Olivier in the 1977 film *A Bridge Too Far* and also had a role in the Oscar-winning *Gandhi*.

This is not his first foray into the world of the upper crust – Fox has even portrayed royalty, playing King Edward VIII in the popular 1980 mini-series, *Edward and Mrs Simpson*, for which he won a BAFTA. But he has also played characters from the other end of the social spectrum, such as the dignified butler Lane in a 2002 film version of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being*

Earnest, starring Colin Firth and Rupert Everett.

Helen Ryan has made many stage and radio appearances and on screen she has acted in TV series as diverse as *Green Wing* and *Midsomer Murders*. Her film credits include *Confetti* and the Oscar nominated classic *The Elephant Man*.

The play's author was the brother of Sir Alec Douglas Home, who became Prime Minister in 1964. William Douglas Home was an aristocrat who began writing plays as a child, studied at RADA and went on to become a successful writer and dramatist. He served as an officer in the Second World War, but was stripped of his rank and sentenced to a year's hard labour after refusing to bomb Le Havre in France, on the grounds the civilians had not been evacuated.

Performances will be at 7.30pm daily with 2.30pm matinees on Thursday and Saturday. Tickets are priced from £12.50 to £23.50. Book at www.marlowetheatre.com or call the box office on 01227 787787.

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with
JANE CONNOLLY
Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk

JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE



Monday, February 2
Zebra Bar, Maidstone

JUSTIN Townes Earle is following in his famous father's footsteps, but he is also becoming his own man in the music world.

The son of folk-rock icon Steve Earle, Justin makes his Maidstone debut next week alongside Belfast-born singer-songwriter Brian Houston. Although very different in style, they both share the admiration of BBC Radio 2's Bob Harris and are bringing their own quirky approach to Americana and roots country music.

Not just blessed with one



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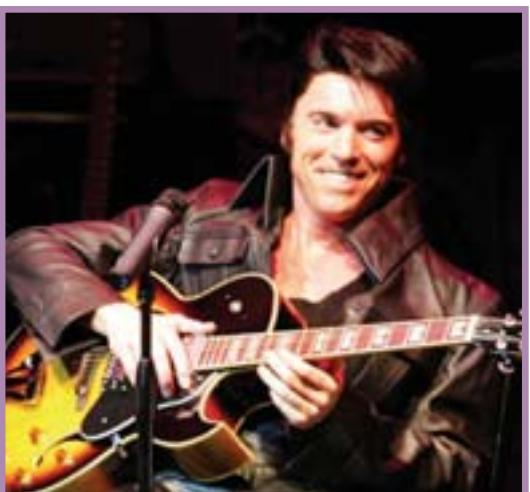


Saturday, February 7
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

RELIVE the entire career of music's greatest icon in Elvis On Tour - The Legend Continues.

Lee 'Memphis' King has the distinction of being named the Best Elvis Tribute Artist In The World at the 2005 Collingwood Elvis Festival in Canada. The King of Kings has come up with a show that covers the four distinct eras of his idol's career and features many of the singer's best-loved hits.

In his early years at Sun Records with legendary producer Sam Phillips, Elvis would perform his hip-swivelling brand of rock 'n' roll in a gold lame jacket or white sport coat, before joining the army. This was followed by the onset of the hippie era, in



which Elvis's career was overshadowed by the British Invasion and he starred in what may be considered to be low-grade movies.

In 1968 the King silenced his critics with an iconic 'come back special', drawing the highest worldwide televi-

sion audiences ever, and went on to achieve further success during the glamorous 'Vegas years'.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18.50/£17.50. To book call 0844 847 1776 or visit www.leascliffhall.org.uk.

THE UGLY DUCKLING



Saturday, January 31
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

THE classic story of The Ugly Duckling is performed in an enchanting style by

Travelling Light theatre group.

Hans Christian Andersen's much-loved tale follows the adventures of a little duckling who emerges from his egg to find he is different from his brothers and sisters.

While they are fluffy, yel-

low and cute, the Ugly Duckling is scruffy, clumsy and stands out from the rest, though his mother loves him just the same. Determined to find out where he truly belongs, he sets out on an epic journey to discover himself.

Internationally acclaimed Travelling Light has been producing high quality shows for young people for 23 years and started out touring schools in the Bristol area.

As the company's reputation increased, they began touring nationally and now about half of its performances are given in theatres to family audiences.

The company has also taken performances abroad, to countries such as Romania and Korea.

The one-hour show will be performed at 11.30am and 2pm. Tickets cost £7 each or £30 for a Friends and Family ticket for five people.

Book at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01227 769075.



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ASHFORD LEISURE

Enjoy 'rock music for the hard of hearing'

GET ready to rock out when the Slug Pixies perform in Willesborough.

Formed in 2002, the band's sound has been described as 'rock music for the hard of hearing'. Find out more at www.slugpixies.com.

The band will be playing at the Hooden on the Hill in Silverhill Road on Friday. For more information about the venue call the pub on 01233 662226.

Tide turns as rock trio head to the George

POPULAR Kent band Springtide Cavalry play in Ashford on Thursday.

The three-piece rock/indie band counts Alkaline Trio, Jimmy Eat World, Dogs and Paul Weller among its influences. Find out more at www.myspace.com/springtidecavalry.

The band will be playing at the George Hotel in High Street. For more about the venue call the pub on 01233 625512.

Albion to be Live 'n' Kickin' as band rolls in

CLASSIC rock is interspersed with contemporary hits with Live 'n' Kickin'.

The four-piece plays covers of songs by bands like Green Day, Red Hot Chilli Peppers and Kaiser Chiefs. To find out more see www.livenkickin.co.uk.

Live 'n' Kickin' will be at The Albion in Albion Place, Mead Road, Willesborough, on Saturday. For more details about the venue call the pub on 01233 622795.

Calling all twitchers, trust needs your help

BIRDWATCHERS are being asked to help the British Trust for Ornithology.

Anyone who has access to a garden and can identify common garden birds is invited to contribute to the trust's research. They need volunteers to take part in its year-round Garden BirdWatch survey, helping to monitor bird populations in a systematic way. For details call 01842 750050 or email gbw@bto.org.

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ASHFORD SHOPPING

Now you can test your own gluten intolerance

THE Assura Pharmacy in St Stephen's Health Centre is stocking a coeliac disease tester for gluten intolerance.

The condition can lead to symptoms such as persistent tiredness, bloating, diarrhoea, constipation, mouth ulcers, vomiting and abdominal pain.

The shop is one of the first in the country to offer the finger prick blood test based upon guidelines set out by the British Society for Gastroenterology. It is currently on sale for £14.99.

Fair days for weekend of wedding planning

COUNTY Square will be holding a wedding fair from January 31-February 1.

Run by Debenhams, the event will include a fashion show. There will be two bridal shops exhibiting along with Debenhams' own dress collection, cake shops, a flower shop and a photographer.

Stalls showcasing wedding stationery and decorations will also be at the centre along with advice about venues. There will be a chance to win a number of prizes too.

Massive cuts as prices are dropped by store

WHSmith is slashing prices yet further in its clearance sale.

The High Street store is cutting the cost on a range of items including stationery, books, board games and art gear.

Among the savings is a 60 per cent cut in the price of an 8Gb Verbatim USB flash drive - down to £20. A Logitech Quickcam Chat web cam has been reduced by 50 per cent to £9.78 too. See in-store for details on log-on to the store's website at www.whsmith.co.uk.

Save money as you kick the habit with Boots

STILL looking to kick the habit as January comes to a conclusion and New Year resolutions get forgotten?

Then pop into Boots, who are cutting the price on stopping smoking support products.

Selected items are down by up to half price, while there are also sizeable reductions in the cost of some of the best-known stop smoking brands. For a taster of the savings you could make go in-store or check www.boots.com.

An eggsellent range of goodies available now

FOR those of you who like to look ahead, Tesco has already stocked its shelves with an array of Easter eggs.

Many of its stores took delivery of a range of chocolate treats in the first week of the month, as it swapped its Christmas displays for those of Easter bunnies and eggs.

Easter does not fall until April 12 this year so you have plenty of time. What's more, the eggs are just a taster of a wider range to appear down closer to the day.

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■ BY TOM BETTS

CORONATION STREET

ITV1, Monday, 7.30pm & 8.30pm; Wednesday, 7.30pm; Friday, 7.30pm & 8.30pm

IT'S been a long time since Coronation Street was a regular part of my TV diet.

This most British of shows drifted off my radar a few years back, but post-Christmas seemed like an apt place to resume viewing.

After crowbar-wielding uber villain Richard Hillman had bumped off a fair number of the street's residents – but unfortunately not Hamster-faced Gail Platt – I figured it couldn't get any better.

In short, it seemed like a good place to call it a day.

On the recommendation of a friend however, I decided to take a look a few weeks back to see how life 'oop north' was being played out these days and what had become of the Rovers Return regulars.

She said it "was going great guns" so I tuned in, expectantly.

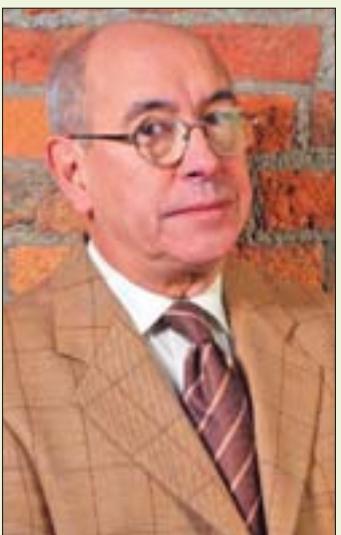
The good news is that Corrie still maintains a certain down-home humour, with characters like thick as two short planks Kirk, acid-tongued Blanche and, above all others, the curtain-twitting Norris, providing more than enough titter value.

Peter Barlow's battles with alcoholism have been deftly handled and the amusing arrest of Tyrone before his wedding was also great fun.

It is in its mainstay characters that Corrie comes into its own though.

This 30 minutes is as comforting as a cup of tea or an episode of Bullseye on UK Gold at Sunday tea time.

Just where would this country be without Emily Bishop, Kevin Webster, Rita Fairclough and intellectual moral



MUCH-LOVED: Coronation Street characters such as Norris Cole are now a TV institution

guardian of the working classes, Ken Barlow, as ever-presents on the box?

Up a creek without so much as a paddle, that's where.

I dread to think what would happen would happen if 'Our Ken' and his oddly fertile head of golden hair actually left the Street? The fall of civilisation as we know it, that's what.

More skilfully written than Emmerdale, and not as cloyingly self-aware as Hollyoaks, Corrie is, I'm glad to report, alive and kicking and miles ahead of its trashy counterparts.

Dripping in tradition, and with the kind of subtle acting the doughnuts on EastEnders would kill to be able to pull off, let's raise a pint of Newton and Ridley's best bitter to the Street.

If you are going to devote a significant part of your life keeping up to date with a soap opera, then at least have the sense to make it this one.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOUR ideas get lots of attention this week. Be as bold and visionary as you dare. Nobody will laugh at your proposals. We're emerging from a very cautious period. Taking a risk will breathe new life into an organisation or relationship that is threatening to go stale.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU'VE always been a solitary person and that's especially true this week. Daydreaming is infinitely more interesting than work. Unfortunately, you don't get paid much for fantasising. Therefore, you need to schedule time to expand your imagination.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

PLANNING a reunion for friends is a good use of your time. Too often you get so wrapped up with work that you neglect your social life. Take this opportunity to set aside time for the people you love most. Negotiating a higher salary is a distinct possibility later in the week.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

MONEY from an inheritance, tax refund or scholarship helps you to leave a restrictive situation. It's possible you feel guilty about leaving a friend or lover behind, but your very survival is at stake. Clinging to an unhealthy relationship will only make things worse.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

ABANDON yourself to books, music, and movies this week. Lately you've been spending a lot of time cooped up at home. A social butterfly like you needs to get out and have fun. True, you have responsibilities, but they shouldn't consign you to a life of drudgery.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOU'RE earning more money than ever so it's necessary to create a financial master plan or you could waste your time and effort. Keep in mind that you won't always be this flush. By putting a percentage of income into savings you'll create a secure financial foundation.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

IT may be time to pause and take stock of your career plans. If you've been thinking about switching industries, this is the year to do so. Have a talk with a respected executive who has experienced many professional twists and turns. Their advice will prove invaluable.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU may have to undertake a long trip for work, education, health or religious reasons. Make sure your passport is up-to-date and you lock in your air and hotel fares. Heed your lover's advice with regard to your love life. Just because you are satisfied doesn't mean he or she is.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

A MEETING of the minds gives you renewed hope for the future. At times you've despaired of ever meeting a person who truly understands you. Recently an intelligent person has entered your social circle. Together, you could form a powerful romantic or creative partnership.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

DEVISING a new routine will keep you happy and healthy. It's important to exercise every day. You're the type of person who stores stress in your body. Having a physical outlet for these frustrations will make you sleep better. If you're looking for a job, you could find one related to the media.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

TAKING a short trip to see family could be in the cards. At first this journey will seem like a hassle, but eventually you'll get into the spirit of things. If a relative asks for your honest opinion, give it. Be mindful of their feelings, though. It's possible to be truthful and tactful.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

IT may be difficult to get off the phone this week. Everybody has been wondering where you've been. Actually, you probably haven't gone anywhere; you were just busy working. Still, it's nice to know you were missed. Take this opportunity to catch-up with friends.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

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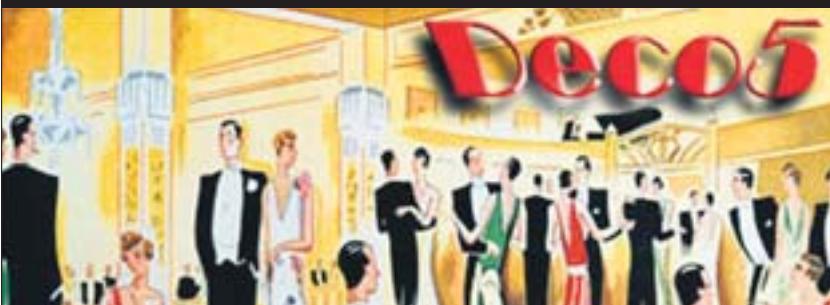
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DON'T MISS OUT: The Merton Farm extravaganza is proving one of the most popular on the music calendar and you can be there in 2009 as tickets go on sale this weekend

Festival excitement builds as early bird tickets arrive

EARLY bird tickets for this year's Lounge on the Farm festival go on sale this Sunday.

The discount tickets to the Canterbury three-dayer will be available from the official website.

Take my advice; get yours soon before they are all snapped up.

Tight-lipped Lounge organisers have confirmed precious little about this summer's offering apart from the basics but I can tell you this:

Lounge on the Farm, now in its fourth year, will once again take place in the glorious surrounds of Merton Farm, running from Friday, July 10 to Sunday 12.

The first line-up announcements will be made mid-March.

■ BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

Festival organiser Matt Gough said he was delighted to start work on putting LOTF 2009 together.

He said: "Kent's 'bestest' music festival is back. We were genuinely chuffed with how well last year's festival turned out – so aren't looking to make too many changes.

"If it ain't broke don't try to fix it. Four years old this time round so hopefully we'll be using all that experience and really start mixing it with the more-renowned festivals on the circuit – but in our own intimate style.

"What you can expect from Lounge on the Farm 2009 is the best in local music mixed-up with the cream of the international music scene.

"Add in a portion of the finest festival food and drink to grace a field – think local produce and local micro-brewed beers with a touch of class.

"Mix that up with a load of family fun, big smiles and a touch of the avant-garde and you've got one of the most enjoyable weekends in the Kentish calendar.

"Already with a few line-up treats up our sleeves, without a doubt this is going to be the best LOTF yet."

Last year's sell-out festival saw hundreds of top bands and artists perform across six stages, ranging from the Cow Shed to the Sheep Dip.

The line-up boasted the likes of Art Brut, The Coral, New York Dolls, Black Kids and Mystery Jets.

For more information and to buy early bird tickets visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.

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FUN: Enjoy life at Lounge on the Farm – filmed last year. Search 'Lounge'



ROCKIN': Black Kids at last summer's hit Lounge on the Farm. Search 'Black'



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- 2 The Flack - Animal (from Deal)
- 3 The Novels - Who Am I (from Ashford)
- 4 Shelta - Lets Talk (from Bexley)
- 5 Euston - Save (from Deal)

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PROPERTY NEWS

'Browsers' boost levels in interest but not sales

THE first weeks of 2009 have seen a surge in "browsing" for new homes, with the number of enquiries from those seeking to look at properties more than doubling even as actual sales stay low.

One online home sales group says enquiries are up to 429,560 in the four weeks to January 10 from 199,762 in the same period last year.

But potential sellers are discouraged by the falling market.

There were 43,000 new listings in the month to January 10, compared with 89,000 in the same period last year.

• Read what's really happening in your part of the county by visiting www.kentnews.co.uk/readmore.

Government support is welcomed by lenders

THE Council of Mortgage Lenders says it welcomes the Government's announcements to support lending in the economy.

The group said the conditions and level of fees imposed on lenders who wish to use the new measures will be particularly important in determining their effectiveness.

Members say this should mean more of the funding that is available may go towards home purchases rather than remortgaging, which would help to support wider activity in the market.

Get a price and advice on how to sell today

ONE estate agent is hoping to breathe new life into the market by encouraging home owners to get their homes valued.

Your Move across east Kent is offering the traditional free valuation but also £200 off fees as well as advice on the realities of selling now.

There's also advice available for those considering renting their property too with discounted landlord fees.

Jackie Davies, area sales director, said: "Many people know that the traditionally busy selling period will soon be upon us but may have concerns as to whether it is appropriate to sell, or rent, particularly in the current market.

"Across south east Kent we are hosting special 'valuation days' on February 5, 6 and 7 where people can check demand and value of their home. All for free."

For further details contact your local Your Move estate agent or visit www.your-move.co.uk.



BARGAIN: Prices are still falling and discounts are to be had - up to 35 per cent in some cases. And with interest rates slashed too this could be the perfect time to snap up a home

Amid the gloom comes light for eager buyers

IT will hardly come as a shock to discover the general view among those in the property market is that 2009 is not shaping up to be a good year.

But there is still some encouraging news around for those who want to move house.

First the bad news. Prices are still falling — after a 15.9 per cent drop in 2008, according to the Nationwide — and some sellers are accepting offers of 20 per cent less than their asking prices while interest rates have been dropped to an all-time low in an effort to get things moving again.

But analysts have some good news — if you're not caught in negative equity — and can put

■ BY NICK AMES

down a decent deposit — now could be an extremely good time to buy, they claim.

This is because so many homes are selling at a discount and others are coming on to the market cheaply as they have been repossessed.

Other figures show that some mortgage deals are being offered which are actually cheaper than renting in an effort by lenders to boost the market and get it moving again.

Figures released last week by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors showed that although the number of properties sold hit a record low at the end of last year, the

number of enquiries rose at the fastest pace since August 2006.

Research by estate agent Savills shows by the third quarter of 2007, when property values peaked, buying was 44 per cent more expensive than renting.

With the subsequent fall in prices, however, the gap is closing or not there at all.

"It's a cracking time to be buying," says James Greenwood, managing director of the property-search agency Stacks. "There's hardly any competition out there at the moment, so you've got the field to yourself. Prices have been discounted, there are distressed sellers who have to sell and there are some real bargains to be had, anything between 30 per cent and 35 per cent off peak value. We haven't seen anything like this for years."

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**KINGSNORTH £129,950**

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**SINGLETON £130,000**

Two bedroom detached bungalow. Lounge/diner, double bedrooms, bathroom. Driveway parking and garage. No chain.

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**WILLESBOROUGH £139,950**

Three bedroom extended corner plot house. Lounge, family room/utility, modern kitchen and bathroom, family bathroom, rear garden.

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**SOUTH ASHFORD OIEO £140,000**

Three bedroom end of terrace. Two reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, bathroom, off road parking and 22ft rear garden.

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**SOUTH ASHFORD £149,950**

Three bedroom end of terrace house. Lounge/dining room, kitchen, utility room, downstairs bathroom. Driveway parking, rear garden. No onward chain.

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**GODINTON PARK £149,950**

Three bedroom terrace house. Lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, rear garden, front garden in excess of 40ft. No Chain.

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**WILLESBOROUGH OIEO £160,000**

1920's style three bedroom semi detached with through lounge/diner, kitchen, utility, downstairs bathroom and lean to, garage, rear mature garden, central heating and double glazing.

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**SOUTH ASHFORD £172,950**

No chain. Four bedroom linked detached home. Entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, 26ft lounge/diner, kitchen and conservatory. First floor offers four bedrooms and family bathroom.

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**WILLESBOROUGH OIEO £175,000**

Three bedroom link detached house in cul de sac location. GF shower room and WC, bed 4/family room, lounge, kitchen/diner and utility room. Garage & driveway parking.

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**WYE £179,950**

Two bedroom semi detached house in village location with no onward chain. Entrance hall, two reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom. Garden measuring 50ft.

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**SINGLETON £179,950**

Vacant possession. Three/four bedroom detached house. Ground floor WC, two reception rooms, kitchen and family bathroom. Block paved driveway and garage.

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**KENNINGTON £219,950**

Three bedroom detached house. Cloakroom, lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, en suite shower room, family bathroom, garage & driveway parking.

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**SHADOXHURST £225,000**

Three bedroom detached bungalow in popular village. Lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, bathroom and off road parking. No chain.

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**TOWN CENTRE £245,000**

Five bedroom terrace house with basement room. Two reception rooms, master en suite. Near to town centre and station. Rear garden and allocated parking.

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**SINGLETON £249,950**

Four bedroom detached house with 3 reception rooms, kitchen, utility, en suite shower room, family bathroom, architecturally designed garage and driveway parking.

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**BOUGHTON ALUPH £278,500**

No Chain. Detached three bedroom house. Lounge, dining room, sun lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, utility area, ground floor cloakroom, family bathroom. Views of village green.

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**CHARTFIELDS OFFERS OVER £295,000**

No chain five bedroom detached house with double detached garage. Two reception rooms, study, utility, conservatory, en suite shower and garden with two outbuildings with power & light.

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**KENNINGTON £295,000**

Four bedroom detached house. Two reception rooms, downstairs cloakroom, kitchen/diner, en suite shower room and family bathroom. Garage with driveway parking.

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**WYE £325,000**

Two bedroom detached bungalow in enviable position near to village centre. 130' x 50' rear garden, lounge, kitchen, cloakroom & family bathroom. Period outbuilding in garden. Garage & driveway.

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**CHALLOCK OFFERS OVER £325,000**

5 bed property in a cul de sac. Downstairs cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, brick-built conservatory, study, lounge, en suite to bedroom two, family bathroom, sitting room, study, cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, utility and double garage.

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**WILLESBOROUGH £350,000**

5 bed detached house. Main bedroom with en-suite bathroom and dressing room, en-suite to bedroom two, family bathroom, sitting room, study, cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, utility and double garage.

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Singleton Hill OIEO £245,000

4 bed detached house. GF Cloakroom. En-suite. Car port. Landscaped gardens.

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4 bed detached executive home, garage, conservatory. Upgraded kitchen & bathroom.

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Sellindge £225,000

3/4 bed detached house, popular location, CHAIN FREE, backs onto fields.

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Willesborough £220,000

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Ashford Asking Price £217,000

Three bedroom detached house, close to town centre, double glazing, garage.

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Ashford £215,000

3 bed link detached. No chain. Planning permission for detached home within grounds.

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Singleton Hill OIEO £190,000

Three bedroom detached house. Two reception rooms. En-suite. Garage.

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3 bed detached house in South Willesborough with garage and driveway.

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Willesborough £175,000

Three bedroom link detached house, conservatory, cloakroom, no chain.

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Park Farm £142,500

2 bedroom end of terrace. GF cloakroom. No chain. Driveway. Rear Garden.

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Willesborough OIEO £140,000

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Willesborough OIEO £135,000

Three bedroom end of terrace townhouse, cloakroom, garage, no chain.

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Town Centre £135,000

Two bedroom 1st floor flat. Modern kitchen with appliances. Central location.

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Willesborough £130,000

3 bed semi detached house. Victorian features. Two w.c.s. Approx. 120ft garden.

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Ashford £129,995

Three bedroom terrace. No chain. DG & CH. Overlooking green.

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Woodchurch OIEO £68,000

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Source: • Customer satisfaction survey, Dec 2007
• Property portal visitor stats Jan 2008
† When you use a YOUR MOVE panel law firm for conveyancing

Let us take care of your property rental



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EA1357-10/2008

ASHFORD

NEW

**£219,995**

ashford@your-move.co.uk
0845 370 9710

Your Move are delighted to offer for sale this detached family home on the popular Orchard Heights development. The property accommodation comprises of three bedrooms, living room, dining room, modern style fitted kitchen, en-suite shower room/wc to master bedroom and downstairs cloakroom/wc. Additional accommodation includes a family bathroom/wc, garage and driveway and a landscaped rear garden. The property is a must to view to appreciate the accommodation on offer.



WILLESBOROUGH £89,950



BRABOURNE LEES £179,995



ASHFORD £109,995



WILLESBOROUGH £107,500



ASHFORD

WILLESBOROUGH £140,000



ASHFORD £149,950



ASHFORD £139,95



ASHFORD £112,000



ASHFORD £120,000



ASHFORD £130,000



BRABOURNE LEES £179,995

**£225,000**

ashford@your-move.co.uk
0845 370 9710

• Godinton Park Location • Four Bedrooms • Living Room • Kitchen/Dining Room



• Semi-Detached House • Three Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen



KENNINGTON £159,950



• Mid Terrace House • Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen/Diner

KINGSNORTH £160,000



SELLINGE £185,000



• Semi-Detached House • Three Bedrooms • Garage & Driveway • No Onward Chain

sales lettings

mortgages



Bairstow eves

Ashford 01233 624315

ashford.kent@bairstoweves.co.uk

Countrywide



£115,000

2 bed first floor apartment. Entrance hall, open-plan lounge/kitchen, bathroom, the master has an suite.



£115,000

Two bedroom terrace house. Kitchen, lounge, bathroom, rear garden. No chain. Access to town centre.



£119,950

2 bed terrace house. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, upstairs bathroom and rear garden approx 110ft.



£144,995

3 bed end of terrace house. Lounge/diner, kitchen, sunroom, upstairs bathroom. Rear garden.



£159,950

3 bed semi-detached that has been extended to the ground floor. 2 receptions, kitchen, garage.



£159,995

Extended 3 bed end of terrace house. Entrance porch, lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory and family bathroom.



£199,000

4 bed semi-detached house. DS cloakroom, lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, bathroom and en suite shower.



£199,995

Three bedroom terrace house in village location. Lounge, kitchen, cellar and bathroom. Bedrooms set over 2 floors.



£275,000

4 bed detached house. Two receptions, downstairs cloakroom, kitchen, utility, family bathroom. Driveway and garage.



Crispin Farm, Faversham Rd, Challock, Ashford, Kent TN25 4BQ
We are acting for the mortgagors and have received an offer of £475,000 on the above property.

Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

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1 St Mary's Island
2 Greenhithe
3 Dartford

4 Edenbridge
5 Gillingham
6 Ashford

7 Faversham
8 Sittingbourne
9 Cuxton

10 Ditton

Please be aware that certain eligibility criteria applies. Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage, rent or any other loan secured on it. Please note that the market value of properties can go down as well as up. Selected homes are available exclusively for key workers, though the definition varies. Please contact Moat for details of the key worker definition for each scheme. Moat Homes Limited is a charitable organisation. 01/09

Bridgefield - Ashford

21 x two and three bedroom houses available
Purchase a home from £38,250
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers

Arterra - Faversham

17 x one and two bedroom apartments available
Purchase a home from £23,750
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers

Meadowbank - Sittingbourne

9 x two bedroom apartments available
Purchase a home from £30,000
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers

Medway Gate - Cuxton

13 x two, three and four bedroom houses available
Purchase a home from £42,500
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers and existing home owners

The Kilns - Ditton

3 x two bedroom maisonettes available
Purchase a home from £41,250
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers

visit us or call us on 0845 359 6161
www.moat.co.uk

What is 'New Build HomeBuy'?

Also known as part buy/part rent, this government funded initiative helps first time buyers to get a foot on the property ladder. It's simple, you purchase a share in the property and at a later stage, when you can afford to do so, you can buy the remainder. A subsidised rent is payable on the un-owned share.

Housing associations such as Moat now assists households on incomes of up to £60,000. Minimum income and other eligibility criteria also apply. Contact Moat now for an application form and we'll send you details of forthcoming open days.



yourkentdating

LOOKING FOR ROMANCE? NEW PEOPLE JOIN ALL THE TIME... AND IT'S FREE!



WOMEN seeking men

YOUNG BUT NOT FOOLISH

Happy-go-lucky 19yr old blonde, blue eyes, slim, loves meeting new people, WLTM a down-to-earth male for friendship to start but hopefully something more. Box 445285

TAKE ME FOR WHO I AM

Hi I'm Sam, 22, looking for a relationship. I'm blonde, have brown eyes, love cosy nights in and cinema, looking to share a relationship. Box 447871

SINGLE DAD WANTED

Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde, blue eyes, likes shopping, cinema and animals, WLTM an honest and trustworthy male, 28-38. Box 446993

SOCCER FAN SEEKS SOULMATE

Fun to be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be my soulmate. Box 446494

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Read or write your own Success Story. Our members have been keen to write about their stories and how they met - who knows, their stories may help you in your search! We are always glad to hear from you!

• Increase your dating success

Online, say more about yourself and your perfect partner with our extended profile, add extra photos to your profile, even change your ad's colour! It makes for a great dating advert that other people are bound to like!

• Search at your leisure

If you can't find who you're looking for on our page here, you will find so many more members online. Browse, read, hear and see members.

www.people2people.co.uk/kos.asp

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Lively female, 26, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555

HOLD MY HAND

Single mum, 28, looking for LTR. I enjoy cosy nights in, dancing, dining out. I'm 5ft1, short hair, blue eyes. Box 445363

A GOOD HEART THESE DAYS...

Tall, attractive, good hearted African female, 28yrs old, enjoys films, good food and cuddles, WLTM a white male for friendship and romance. Box 441654

NO TIMEWASTERS!

Easygoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTM loving, caring white male 35-45 for long term loving relationship. Box 444224

CHATHAM UP!

Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5ft2, blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

CANTERBURY TALE

Hi guys, fun-loving single mum, 34, WLTM the man of my dreams! I'm genuine, honest and full of life! Only decent, honest men may apply!! Box 406670

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Attractive, 31, 5ft4, size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

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0808 156 5339**

(Calls are free; mobile rates may vary; check with your provider)

**COLLECT your messages:
0906 550 4335**

(Calls cost £1/min; contact your service provider for details)

**REPLY to an ad, call:
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REPLY by Text

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to 82250 e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

**BROWSE and listen line:
0906 753 3093**

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**HELP required with service?
0871 220 9205**

Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm. Mon to Fri | Email: louise@gwave.co.uk (Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)



SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Loving, caring, tactile female, 36, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue-eyes, N/S, GSOH, likes cinema, bowling, country pubs, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship and LTR. Box 827619

FRiENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Social, genuine, honest, single mum, 36, 5ft6. I've got hazel eyes and dark hair and enjoy the cinema, meals out. WLTM sincere, attractive genuine male. Box 446840

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37y old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552

TRY ME

Ashford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring and loving man. I have 2 kids and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446935

HISTORIC MEETING??

Mum of three, 36, long wavy hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places. Likes eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440939

DON'T PASS ME BY

Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 489793

FANCY A DRINK?

Hi I'm Judith, 40, small, blonde hair, blue eyes, love the sea and water-sports, cinema, animals; WLTM fun-loving guy for friendship and see what happens. Box 448107

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy blonde, 39y old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

NO TIES

Bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTM slim, solvent, professional white male, 40-50, for company, fun, love, laughter. Box 443573

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MOTORS NEWS



Alfa turns on small car style with super MiTo

RESURGENT Alfa Romeo has the new MiTo supermini in showrooms (from £10,995) and the Mini firmly in its sights.

Alfa has concentrated on eye-catching style and a good choice of petrol or diesel engines, but the small turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol units seem best suited to upholding Alfa's sporting tradition while meeting current needs for economy, hitting 60mph in eight seconds while averaging up to 46mpg, depending on output.

The newcomer also gets a maximum five stars in the Euro NCAP crash test.



Ka shows cash squeeze in the baby car sector

FORD'S all-new Ka city car has arrived as car buyers think smaller, but pricing is tight at the bottom of the market.

So the cheapest newcomer (from £7,995) undercuts its predecessor by £350.

The Ka 'Mark II' has also been promoted by the latest James Bond film Quantum of Solace – with glamorous Bond girl Olga Kurylenko seen at its wheel.

The newcomer is offered with 68bhp 1.2-litre petrol or 74bhp 1.3 diesel power, both qualifying for the cheapest payable road tax band (£35/year).



Baby Citroën is nosing ahead of its little rivals

CITROËN'S eco-friendly C1 city car (from £7,595) has a butch new front end for 2009, improved cabin and even better CO2 emissions and fuel economy.

Launched in 2005, the C1 is now one of the UK's slowest depreciating and greenest cars, with the new model offering improved CO2 emissions as low as 106g/km. The 1.0-litre petrol engine also now offers improved fuel consumption of up to 62.8mpg on the combined cycle while the 1.4HDi diesel offers an amazing 68.9mpg. Two new C1 trims are offered.



NEW KID ON THE BLOCK: Vauxhall will be attacking German prestige marques BMW/Mercedes/Audi with their new-look Insignia which costs a lot less than its rivals

New Insignia stands for a big change in attitude

VAUXHALL'S all-new Insignia marks a fresh start as well as new name in the family/company car sector.

This arena once dominated UK car sales, but now holds just a tenth of volume in the face of rivalry from 4x4s, MPVs and upmarket German kit.

Vauxhall's own seven-seat Zafira midi-MPV will have inflicted hefty damage and you sense the marque's parent General Motors has taken note.

So the Insignia drops any pretence at chasing the staid and practical MPV vote and concentrates on 'comfort and style', attacking German prestige marques while still offering a hatchback option for diehard 'rep's car' fans.

Even the estate version looks sporty and classy against the final hearse-like wagon spin-off from the Vectra – the Insignia's increasingly unloved predecessor.

The Insignia also needed to attack the Vectra's old foe, the Ford Mondeo, which had a hike in quality and style this time around, while remaining within reach of traditional

ROAD TEST VAUXHALL INSIGNIA

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

fleet customers. The Insignia places it under pressure on all counts and prices start from a modest £15,995 – some £500 less than the final Vectra line-up. Styling is enhanced by two neat touches: blacked out door pillars lower a roofline that already makes the Vauxhall look like a four-door coupé, while the 'blade' detail abaft the front wheel is a master touch suggesting power and muscle.

If the car's sharp suit worries BMW/Mercedes/Audi then the lining offers little relief even if let down by the budget feel of controls for the driver's seat and other minutiae.

But remember the Insignia is still selling for Vectra prices. Even the sporty 'rep's favourite' SRi model we tested, with its aluminium pedals, climate control, comfy sports seats – including extendable seat base – quality sound system and smart alloys, starts at just over £18,000.

Diesel sales should dominate, of course, but our car's all-new 220PS (218bhp) 2.0-litre Turbo petrol engine impressed and could become the cult engine to complement the Insignia's taut yet supple chassis, for the Vectra's replacement looks and feels more like a driver's than a 'rep's car'. Do not dismiss without a road test.



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MORE ROAD TESTS
BY STEVE LOADER @
yourkenttv.co.uk**

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We have a great selection of nearly new cars at hugely reduced prices.



07 57 Ford Fiesta Style 1.2 3dr



Choice of
11

Was New £8,995

WITH AIR CON

Our Price
£5199

You Save
£3796*

07 57 Seat Ibiza Reference 1.2 5dr



Choice of
23

Was New £8,825

WITH AIR CON

Our Price
£6250

You Save
£2575*

07 57 Peugeot 207 S 1.4 VTi 5dr



Choice of
18

Was New £11,125

WITH AIR CON

Our Price
£6280

You Save
£4845*

Here is a selection of some of the fantastic deals available in our Genuine Sale! HURRY WHILE STOCKS LAST!

Mazdas

OUR PRICE WAS NEW YOU SAVE

08 Reg Mazda Mazda2 1.3 TS 5dr £7,790 £8,763 £973
08 Reg Mazda Mazda3 1.4 S 5dr £7,390 £11,568 £4,178
08 Reg Mazda Mazda3 2.0 Sport 5dr £12,990 £16,624 £3,634
58 Reg Mazda Mazda5 2.0 Sport 5dr £14,290 £16,624 £2,334
07 Reg Mazda Mazda6 2.0 TS2 [147] 5dr £8,590 £17,930 £9,340
57 Reg Mazda Cx-7 2.3T 5dr £15,190 £24,448 £9,258
08 Reg Mazda MX-5 1.8i [Option Pack] £11,849 £16,203 £4,354
08 Reg Mazda MX-5 2.0i [Option Pack] £12,499 £17,181 £4,682



58 Reg Mazda
Mazda2 1.4D TS2 3dr

Was New £11213
Our Price £9190
Saving against new £2023



08 Reg Mazda
Mazda3 2.0 Sport 4dr

Was New £16624
Our Price £11990
Saving against new £4634

Peugeots

OUR PRICE WAS NEW YOU SAVE

07 Reg Peugeot 207 1.6 VTi SE [120] 5dr £8,490 £12,822 £4,132
08 Reg Peugeot 207 1.6 HDI 90 S 5dr £9,990 £13,038 £3,049
58 Reg Peugeot 207 1.4 HDI S 5dr [AC] £9,290 £12,451 £3,161
08 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 VTi Sport 5dr £10,490 £15,390 £4,900
57 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 HDI 110 Sport £10,990 £17,448 £6,455
08 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 HDI 110 SE 5dr £12,490 £18,423 £5,933
08 Reg Peugeot 308 2.0 HDI GT 5dr £13,590 £20,186 £6,596
57 Reg Peugeot 407 2.0 HDi 136 SE 5dr £10,190 £18,455 £8,265



08 Reg Peugeot
MX-5 2.0i Sport 2dr

Was New £18650
Our Price £12999
Saving against new £5651



57 Reg Peugeot
308 1.6 HDi 90 S 5dr (A/C)

Was New £14800
Our Price £9490
Saving against new £5310

Renaults

OUR PRICE WAS NEW YOU SAVE

58 Reg Renault Twingo 1.2 TCE GT 3dr £6,999 £10,157 £3,158
58 Reg Renault Clio 1.2 TCE Expression 3dr £7,720 £11,495 £3,775
07 Reg Renault Clio 1.4 16V Dynamique £7,290 £10,437 £3,147
08 Reg Renault Grand Modus 1.6 Dynamique Auto £8,090 £13,158 £5,068
08 Reg Renault Megane 2.0 Renaultsport 225 3dr £12,890 £19,195 £6,305
08 Reg Renault Laguna 2.0 dCi Dynamique 5dr £12,490 £17,229 £4,739
08 Reg Renault Laguna 2.0 dCi 180 GT 5dr £14,290 £21,438 £7,148
58 Reg Renault Koleos 2.0 dCi Privileged 5dr £20,390 £23,367 £2,977



08 Reg Renault
Clio 1.5 dCi 86 Dynamique 3dr

Was New £12201
Our Price £8990
Saving against new £3211



57 Reg Renault
Megane 1.5 dCi 86 Extreme 5dr

Was New £13230
Our Price £6990
Saving against new £6240

Other Makes

OUR PRICE WAS NEW YOU SAVE

07 Reg Citroen C3 1.6 HDi 16V Exclusive 5dr £6,799 £13,032 £6,233
07 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 3dr (Climate) £5,999 £9,622 £3,623
57 Reg Ford Mondeo 1.8 TDCi Edge 5dr £9,750 £16,795 £7,045
07 Reg Ford C-max 1.6 TDCi Zetec 110 5dr £8,999 £17,012 £8,013
07 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i 16V Life 3dr £6,599 £9,497 £2,898
07 Reg Vauxhall Vectra 1.8i VVT Exclusiv 5dr £6,990 £14,897 £7,907
57 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Design £11,999 £21,705 £9,706



57 Reg Renault
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57 Reg Fiat
Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5dr

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57 Reg Ford
Focus 1.8 Style 5dr

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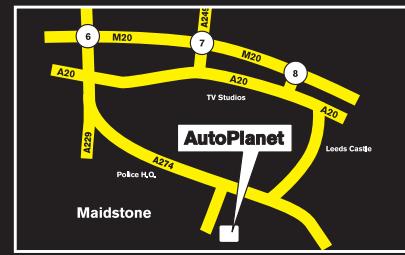
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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

GERMAN COMPACT EXECUTIVES

USED car prices are set to firm up after being in freefall for several months, but this could still be a good time to snap up one of the three most aspirational cars on the UK market – compact executive models from the German trio of executive marques, BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz. In good times, the BMW 3-Series, Audi A4 and Mercedes C-Class hold their value ridiculously well, especially when considering the plentiful used supply, but recessions are a great leveller – and opportunity for those with the necessary cash and desire.

BMW 3-SERIES



REGARDED as the number one compact executive model for driving pleasure and sheer swank value, the 3-Series' crown is threatened by the numbers available plus new pressure from the Audi and Merc and other plausible rivals. There is plenty of choice, from hatchbacks, stylish estates and barnstorming M3 supercars as well as four and two-door stalwarts. Top engines are the classic BMW straight-six petrol and some smooth diesels – especially the 320d.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

AUDI A4



AUDI'S ambitious compact executive challenger used to be seen as an also-ran hampered by front-wheel drive rather than the rear-wheel drive used by the rival BMW and Merc. However, the overall rise of Audi and the cachet of its Quattro all-wheel drive versions has turned the A4 into the 'thinking man's choice', though the numbers in circulation may weaken prices. It perennially under-achieves on the driving front, but lacks nothing in prestige.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

MERCEDES C-CLASS



MERCEDES-BENZ has put down a marker with the latest C-Class, creating a robust car almost as good to drive as the BMW and arguably better looking than either of its fiercest rivals. Combined with the most prestigious badge of the German trio, this makes the current 'C' sought-after on the nearly new market, though previous generation cars are less so thanks to a period of poorer build and reliability. This means there are bargains diesel estates being the pick.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Four Wheel Drive Auction



**Wednesday 4th February
at 6.30pm**

Entries Invited

We typically offer around 150 4x4's including many of todays most popular models such as Land Rover, Range Rover, Toyota, Mitsubishi etc As well as a good selection of double and single cab 4x4 pick up trucks.

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**Thursday 29th January at
3.00pm**

Entries Invited

A very popular and well attended sale offering 50 to 75 light vans and pick up trucks.

Notes for all sales

we would strongly advise you, where possible, to book your vehicles in as early as possible, either by phone, email, or our new instant pre-booking service available on the internet to get maximum coverage.

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An excellent opportunity has arisen for an Administrative Assistant to support the Traffic Office Coordinator within this busy working environment.
The successful applicant must have strong customer service focus, the ability to work under pressure and be proficient in most Microsoft packages. This role will include working some Saturdays. French speaking would be desirable but not essential.
For more information call the HR Department on 01303 261870

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Team Administrators (Car)

Ref: 767- ECC782

Band 3: £14,834 - £17,732 per annum

Templar House, Ashford

The Contracting and Procurement Department currently has two vacancies for experienced administrators to provide comprehensive and flexible administrative support to meet the needs of the team.

You must have a good general standard of education i.e. minimum of 4 GCSE passes at A-C grade (including English) or equivalent, must demonstrate good key board skills with qualification to RSA 2 level or equivalent, together with appropriate administrative and/or secretarial experience and be competent in the use of Microsoft Office programmes including Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

You should demonstrate excellent written and oral communication skills, be able to organise and prioritise their workload, work well and accurately under pressure and be able to deal with confidential and sensitive issues in a professional manner.

Main duties will include: - answering telephone queries, dealing with incoming and outgoing post, typing letters and reports, filing, diary management, arranging meetings, taking minutes at meetings, information distribution. Car driver essential as some meetings will be away from base.

For an informal chat call Heather Vague or Linda Todman on 01233 618345.

Completed applications by: 5 February 2009.

Interviews to be held on: 23 February 2009.

A comprehensive corporate induction programme is provided at the commencement of employment.

Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an interview.

[Car icon] Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

For further information and to apply, please visit www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk

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Hartsdown Technology College

George V Avenue, Margate, Kent CT9 5RE
Telephone: 01843 227957 Fax: 01843 578002



This is a very rare and exciting opportunity as over the next 3 years Hartsdown Technology College will be redesigned and rebuilt as an Innovative centre of Education under the BSF scheme. As a result, there is a real buzz of enthusiasm through the college community.

We are seeking to appoint both a **MATHS** and an **ENGLISH teacher for Summer 09**. This post is open to everyone from a NQT to someone who may wish to become an AST.

- A creative and innovative teacher who can inspire students of all abilities.
- High levels of emotional literacy in and out of the classroom.
- The vision and commitment to help build on high achievement.
- To develop extra curricular aspects of Maths or English.
- In return we offer exceptional support, training and an experienced fully staffed departments both led by outstanding and enthusiastic Directors of Learning.

For further details an application form, please contact Danielle Skinner or e-mail: danielle@hartsdown.kent.sch.uk. Closing date: **2nd February 09**. Informal visits welcome.

Find out more on www.hartsdown.kent.sch.uk "A Good school with outstanding features" Ofsted 2008



ENGLISH AND MATHS

10 STEPS TO SUCCESS - SATURDAY REVISION SCHOOL AT PENT VALLEY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

ENGLISH AND MATHS TUTORS

Start Date: Saturday 28th February - Saturday 16th May 2009 (excluding Easter break)
Hours: Saturday school 09.15 - 12.00 (including free breakfast with students)
Salary: £100 per session
Main aim: Saturday school is a new initiative to support students to achieve at least a grade C at GCSE in English and Maths.
Role: To motivate and enthuse small groups of year 11 students over 10 Saturday sessions.

Previous experience of working at this level essential.
A current Enhanced CRB Disclosure is required.

LEAD ENGLISH AND MATHS CO-ORDINATORS

Start Date: Saturday 28th February - Saturday 16th May 2009 (excluding Easter break)
Hours: Saturday school 09.00 - 12.00 (including free breakfast with students)
Salary: £150 per session
Main aim: Saturday school is a new initiative to support students to achieve at least a grade C at GCSE in English and Maths.
Role: To teach and to co-ordinate the programme and aim to motivate and enthuse small groups of year 11 students over 10 Saturday sessions.

Previous experience of working at this level essential.
A current Enhanced CRB Disclosure is required.

TEACHERS TO PRODUCE GCSE ENGLISH AND MATHS CURRICULUM REVISION PACKAGES

Payment: £250 one off payment for a complete set of English or Maths revision resources.

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Mrs S Spirella, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road,

Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4FD.

Email: samantha.spirella@pentvalley.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01303 271811 ext 2218 Fax: 01303 271942

Closing Date: Friday 6 February 2009

Interviews: Week Commencing 9 February 2009



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Abbey Court is located on 2 sites: Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred.

Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):

Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338224)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 13.2.2009

House Manager

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Required to run a Residential home for Adults with Learning Disability at our Sheerness home. You must have at least 2 years previous experience on a management level.

To be confident, assertive and possess excellent communication skills (written and verbal) at all levels. Experience of writing reports, undertaking projects and supporting the Organisation.

You will need to hold NVQ Level 4 Management in Care; RMA is desirable but not essential, as training will be given.

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HMYOI Rochester is a closed Young Offender Institution, housing approximately 360 18-20 year olds serving sentences of up to four years. It is situated next to HMP Cookham Wood on the outskirts of Rochester. HMYOI Rochester implemented an additional 300 bed temporary custodial facility from Summer 2008 making it one of the largest sentenced Young Offenders Institutions in the UK.

HMYOI Cookham Wood near Rochester has become a Male Juvenile Centre, accommodating 15-17 year olds, commissioned by the Youth Justice Board.

You will be required to work in Rochester and Cookham Wood and will be subject to CRB enhanced clearance.

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You will be required to work in both Blantyre House and East Sutton Park.

For both positions, you will have gained a recognised apprenticeship and City & Guilds ordinary certificate or equivalent qualification and have proven relevant experience. A City & Guilds advanced certificate or equivalent qualifications, Corgi, Water Supply Regulations course and Water Treatments course would be desirable. You'll work 39 hours per week excluding meal breaks and be expected to work weekends on a rostered shift pattern.

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To apply for these posts please email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmpps.gsi.gov.uk
Applicants will require an email address in order for applications to be sent to them.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 8 February 2009.

For further information about vacancies within HM Prison Service and about our Prison Establishments please visit www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.



National Offender Management Service



Career Opportunities



Canterbury College

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Director of Quality & Innovation

09/01

37 hrs per week, salary range £56,478 to £62,408 per annum

Acting Section Manager NVQs and Professional Studies, Dental, Nursing, Social Care and Counselling

09/02

37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum. Fixed Term post ending 31 July 09

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based

07/87

37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 - £26,363 per annum. Fixed term post ending 13 July 09

Supply Lecturers Higher Education are required in the following areas

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

HE Tourism Management

S/HE/TOR

Counselling (must hold relevant recognised qualification)

S/HE/COU

Early Years (to teach on Foundations Degrees)

S/HE/EY

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Various hours available, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

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S/AC

Veterinary Nursing

S/VET

Supply/Flexibank

S/HSC

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

Midwife (ENB 997)

Registered Nurse (ENB 998)

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To teach on Maternity Care, Mental Health and Health & Social Care courses.

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Various hours available, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

Level 2 & 3 Counselling

02/128

Registered Dental Nurse

09/03

First Aid Trainer

08/127

Information, Advice and Guidance

SDT2

Citizenship

TD13

PE/Sport Trainer

06/08

Infant School/Early Years

02/17

Advanced Practitioner

08/124

37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum

HR Workforce Information Officer

09/03

37 hrs per week, salary starting £16,914 per annum.

Placement Officer

08/127

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £24,408 per annum

Service Desk Technician Level 2

S/LS

37 hrs per week, salary starting £16,914 per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care

S/CSA

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting £18,963 pro rata per annum

Resource Assistant Animal Care & Land Based

06/08

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum

Learning Support Business

02/17

37 hrs per week, 40 weeks term time. Salary starting £16,914 pro rata per annum.

Teacher Education Administrator

08/124

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting £15,085 pro rata per annum

Supply Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Health, Public Service, Early Years

S/Admin

Various hours available, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum

Supply Learning Support within Health, Public Services & Early Years

S/LS

Various hours available, salary starting at £16,914 pro rata per annum

Supply Administrator with Health, Public Services & Early Years

S/Admin

Various hours available, salary starting at £15,085 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

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- Staff Discount Scheme

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 02 February 2009 at 12 noon

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**Children's Worker, Ashford
Women's Refuge x2
Part-Time • 17,000 pro rata**

The Rising Sun Domestic Violence Project has secured 1 year's funding for 2 part-time children's workers to work with children living in Ashford Refuge. The posts are each 15 1/2 hours per week and are to be worked together. Each person will work 2 mornings and 3 after school sessions offering support, mentoring and preschool play sessions. We are looking for someone with an NVQ level 2 or above in childcare. Experience of working with children in an appropriate setting (school; playgroup; nursery etc) an advantage as is an interest in supporting children who have experienced living with Domestic Abuse. An enhanced CRB check is required. Only women need apply - Exempt under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 Section 7 (2) (e).

Please E-mail: emma@sdvp.co.uk for an application form.
Closing date Friday 6th. Interview date to be arranged.

**Director of Sales
Global Licensing**



Oil Drum is an award winning environmental technology company with its head office at the University of Kent, Canterbury.

Following the success of our hydrogen based fuel saving technology in the UK, we have created a new position within the company responsible for developing global sales opportunities.

The successful candidate will take responsibility for identifying prospects in various territories around the globe, and will then work closely with the Oil Drum team to bring these opportunities to a successful conclusion.

Previous sales experience may assist, but is not essential. Candidates must be highly motivated and demonstrate a strong desire to succeed. This is a demanding position and as a result an excellent remuneration package will be offered to the successful candidate.

For more information on Oil Drum please visit
www.save-fuel.co.uk

Please send your CV either by post to

**Oil Drum Limited, Canterbury Enterprise Hub,
UNIVERSITY OF KENT, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NJ,
or email to: darryl@save-fuel.co.uk only.**

Please do not telephone. No agencies.

Director of Human Resources MidKent College Medway Kent

Salary circa £75,000 + Generous Benefits Package

MidKent College is the largest provider of education and training in Kent, employing more than 1,000 staff and training over 10,000 students and 3,000 soldiers per year. In these exceptional times we are about to relocate to our £86 million new premises which are nearing completion in Gillingham, we have just commenced service under a Private Public Partnership

delivering training services to the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham and we are finalising exciting plans for the redevelopment of our site in Maidstone. To compliment this we are currently looking for a Director of HR to take full responsibility for the strategic and operational development for all aspects of the HR functions within the College.

Role

- Lead the development of a progressive HR function to support the College's ambitious change agenda.
- Forge strong and professional relationships with the Senior Leadership Team and other stakeholders by demonstrating an ability to deliver highly professional services in line with the College vision and values.
- Contribute significantly to the organisational development of the College and make improvements to individual and team performances which in turn will benefit students.

The Candidate

- You will be qualified to a minimum of CIPD graduate level and have senior management experience of a strategic and operational Human Resource role.
- You will have up-to date knowledge of current and emerging employment legislation and an impressive and proven track record of moving the HR functions forward in a large, complex and changing organisation.
- You will have a demonstrable track record of leading change and improvement, gaining the support of staff and achieving tangible results.
- You will have superb communication skills and the ability to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders
- You will be a determined, creative and results orientated individual with the ability to influence at all levels.

For full details and application pack please contact
Katherine Reilly on 01634 884398
or email Katherine.reilly@midkent.ac.uk

For a confidential discussion about this exciting
post please call Ken Pullan (our retained consultant)
on 07725 128661. Closing Date: 9 February 2009.



The brand new Medway Campus will replace the College's existing sites at Horsted and City Way.

September 2009 will see the opening of the College's innovative new Medway Campus in Gillingham, and plans are currently being developed for a dazzling transformation of the Maidstone Campus at Oakwood Park.



ETHELBERT CHILDRENS SERVICES

"Working and Caring for Children since 1972"

Full-time Teacher

Due to continued expansion and growth, the above vacancy has arisen in our EBD Schools for pupils in Key Stages 2-4; all of whom have emotional and behavioural difficulties. EBD experience preferable, but not essential. A flexible approach to teaching is important. An understanding of integrated studies would be an advantage. Support and training will be given.

Salary depending on experience, post to commence as soon as possible

Closing date: 13 February 2009

Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form:

**Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston,
Kent, CT12 5BZ – Telephone: 01843 823762**

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£21,244 - £27,492 • 37 HOURS PER WEEK

BASED EAST AND WEST KENT

KCA provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. Working as part of a community team you will be providing a range of services for people with drug and alcohol problems. You will be part of the day programme team, and will be required to take a leading role in the planning and delivery of a structured holistic programme. This includes therapeutic group work, assessment and key working, complementary therapies and one to one counselling.

A qualification to diploma level in counselling with group work experience, preferably in a drug and alcohol day programme or residential setting is required. A BACP accreditation would be advantageous.

Closing date: 9 February 2009.

Interview date: 18 February 2009.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk. Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 546.

We regularly have opportunities for **Community Drug Workers**.

Vacancies are advertised on our website and if you would like more information please email recruitment@kca.org.uk

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

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If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Toni Howes, Service Manager KCA Canterbury on 01227 454740 or Christine Gordon Admin Lead on 01795 590795 ex.2.

Closing date: 13 February 2009.

Interview date: 18 February 2009.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk. Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 548.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS**KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD
TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "Advertiser") takes no responsibility for liability in respect of any omission to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All personal and sensitive information posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
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11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. All correspondence and replies to your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim compensation for any potential damages action may be taken.
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18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first come first served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of communication). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser not be available. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete the TV commercial or any other work required in the agreed terms of the agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to use the services of another production company chosen by the media owner supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial or any other work required in the agreed terms of the agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze) etc. and that they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
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- b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any charges for breaking the contract.
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23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the media owner and shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the company's parent KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal action arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

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The Environmental Response Team was established to tackle a wide range of issues of high importance to the public ranging from noise nuisance, to traveller liaison, to animal welfare, through to fly tipping and other antisocial behaviour. The section has a very high profile and has had some significant successes. Expectations for the team's performance are extremely high.

This post plays a key role in investigating and resolving issues affecting the quality of life and environment in Swale. Responsibilities will include nuisance investigation, fly tipping, traveller liaison etc. You will be expected to participate in our weekly out of hours noise service on Friday and Saturday nights, 9.00pm to 1.00am plus two days during the week to be agreed.

Ideally you will have a BTEC National Certificate in Environmental Health or be educated to GCSE standard with 5 A-C passes including maths and English and a minimum of one year's experience of nuisance investigation or other local authority enforcement role. You will be a good listener, and competent in resolving customers problems. You will have a good understanding of IT, and an ability to use monitoring equipment, although training will be given.

For an informal discussion please telephone Alister Andrews, Environmental Response Manager on 01795 417320.

We welcome applications for flexible working arrangements.

In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, Local Government final salary pension scheme and flexible time working for most posts.

For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting ref: 733AM1.

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: <http://jobs.swale.gov.uk>

Closing date: 2 February 2009
Interviews: w/c 9 February 2009



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Swale is a growth area, part of which is in the Thames Gateway. Together with the physical growth, it is developing more diverse resident and migrant populations. This produces a set of challenges, some of which require long term planning and solutions and some which require immediate practical responses.

We are looking for a highly motivated person with a drive to get things done. Excellent project management and communication skills are important as you will need to bring together many different people across our organisation and community to effectively make improvements.

You need to be an equalities expert with a strong commitment to community cohesion and equality, be willing and able to stay informed and be aware of best practice in this field.

In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, Local Government final salary pension scheme and flexible time working for most posts.

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Peter Speakman on 01795 417251 or e-mail peterspeakman@swale.gov.uk

For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting ref: 206ED4.

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: <http://jobs.swale.gov.uk>

Closing date: 12 February 2009
Interviews: 27 February 2009



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Programme Area Leader in Sport

Ref: P0264

Salary: £29,267 - £32,898

We have an exciting opportunity for Programme Area Leader in Sport. You'll assist and support the Head of School in the delivery, management and teaching of all sports related subjects. The successful candidate will be educated to degree level and have or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Sport

Ref: P1000

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

The College is looking for a passionate and enthusiastic professional to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidate will be educated to degree level and have or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification within a specified timeframe.

Instructor/Reviewing Officer

Ref: P0586

Salary: £19,736 - £25,441 pro-rata (22.2 hours per week)

We are looking to appoint a qualified and experienced Assessor/Reviewing Officer for Engineering, Fabrication and Welding. The successful candidate will be highly motivated and able to assess trainees on NVQ qualifications including, 'Train to Gain' learners within our successful Engineering department. A relevant qualification is essential and the successful candidate will have or be willing to work towards Assessor/Verifier and H&S qualifications.

Media Technician

Ref: P1001

Salary: £11,599 - £17,200 pro-rata (18.5 hours per week for 38 weeks)

The Media department is currently looking to expand its provision at Oakwood Park and as a direct result is looking to appoint a Technician to join the team. The ideal candidate will be able to provide technical support to staff and students and will be responsible for setting-up and providing classroom support.

Departmental Administrator

Ref: P0245

Salary: £11,599 - £17,200

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, who is able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Closing date: Friday, 6 February 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBL Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBL, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBL on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbl.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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If you would like to know more about becoming a volunteer with Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey, please phone 01795 429007 or visit our web site http://homebtconnect.com/Home-Start_Swale to find out about our next Induction Programme.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

RIVERSIDE GRAPHICS LIMITED (Company Number 03914131)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Nortons, Highlands House, Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood, Reading, RG7 1NT, on 6 February 2009, at 2.30 pm for the purpose of dealing with Section 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986. Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged no later than 12.00 noon on 5th February 2009 at the above address.

A full list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be examined free of charge at the offices of Norton Recovery Limited, Highlands House, Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood, Reading, RG7 1NT, between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days prior to the day of the meeting.

Dated: 15 January 2009
By Order of the Board
J Arnell, Director

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Enterprising advice scheme extended

A SERVICE to encourage disadvantaged people in the south east to set up their own business has been expanded to reach even more potential entrepreneurs.

The Business Link Enterprise Gateway scheme has already helped more than 300 people from deprived areas set up their own companies and thousands more have received guidance and advice.

It aims to help people facing challenges, or those who haven't realised they have a talent for business and enterprise.

During the last five years it has been available in 16 locations across the south east and now it is covering deprived communities across the whole region.

In Kent, the service spans the county and is particularly focused in areas where entrepreneurial activity is low, such as Medway, the Isle of Sheppey, and selected wards in Sittingbourne and Dover.

Enterprise development manager Jane North said: "Our role is to work with individuals who would not normally consider enterprise as a viable option for them.

"They may have faced redundancy, health problems or just been out of the job market for a long time."

For more information, telephone 0845 600 9006, or visit the website by logging on at www.bringyourideastolife.co.uk.

Save money thanks to BCC and Staples tie up

IMPORTANT news for people brave enough to start up a business right now: the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) – the umbrella organisation of local chambers of commerce – and office stationery group Staples have teamed up to launch a extended help-to-go pack.

All start-ups that join the BCC will now receive a 20 per cent discount voucher to spend at their local Staples store.

The pack, which when it was first launched was to help start-ups during their crucial first year, has been extended to take into account the new challenges companies are now facing. Staples have stores across the county.

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Julie Maddocks asks: "In business, is small really beautiful?" Search 'crunch'

'Upbeat' county will weather the storm

■ BY **TONY PATEY**

THERE may not be any strong green shoots of recovery showing in Kent just yet, but there are some warm breezes blowing through the chilly economic climate.

Businesses across the county are reporting that while the credit crunch has taken a bite out of their business, they are – so far at least – weathering the storms better than elsewhere in the UK.

And much of the reason for the region's resilience is being put down to an increasing export market and a confidence both in the current trading environment and in what the future holds.

The Maidstone Economic Development Group of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce (KICC) found members were showing greater confidence under current conditions than the south east in general, and nationally.

John Taylor, chairman of the MED Group, said: "While these are challenging times, we are heartened by this positive attitude among our members. Clearly things are not as gloomy in Kent as the national picture would suggest."

David Foley, policy director of the Channel Chamber of Commerce which represents much of the east Kent coast, agreed there were relatively bright areas amid the bleakness.

He said exporters especially were in a good position to fend off the crunch with the weak pound.

"The potential for manufacturers in this area is considerable," he said.

Also firms which had a sound ecological base were doing relatively well because of a change in consumer sentiment, with people wanting more environment-friendly goods.

Mr Foley reckoned the three basic principles of good business were price, good quality and



ROUGH TRADE: Many Kent businesses remain upbeat despite the harsh conditions, local chambers of commerce say

service – with service being the clincher in rough trading times.

Peter Hobbs, chief executive of the Channel Chamber, added: "We are seeing lots of small organisations, particularly in the service sector, struggling as their sales begin to tighten.

"As a result they are urgently reviewing their costs and who they buy from, in other words their procurement.

"There are, of course, plenty of opportunities here for local businesses, for example, some local book keepers and accountants are reporting an uplift in clients."

KICC members in the service sector – rather than manufacturing – are upbeat.

During the three months to December, these members reported a "less dire decline" in both home and export sales than the rest of the south east.

Elsewhere, while order books are dipping and cash-flow worsened, KICC members appear to be performing better than elsewhere in the nation.

Interestingly, their levels of business confidence were higher, which is an important factor in getting the economy back on track.

An equal proportion expected sales to rise in 2009 as to fall, and although more expected profits to fall than to rise, this gloom was much less widespread than the rest of the south east, despite the fact that more KICC members were carrying spare capacity.

The higher confidence is reflected in pre-December employment which held steady, unlike the rest of the south east and the UK, and while there were more firms expecting to cut staff than those aiming to hire more, there was less pessimism.

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ACADEMY: Sam Northeast has been in the runs

Relegation battle looms for Ashford

ASHFORD men's hockey 1st XI remain in a relegation fight in South Hockey League Division 1 after losing out in a seven-goal thriller.

Chris Smith's side went into the game against fourth-placed London Wayfarers knowing they would have to be clinical up front to get anything out of the game.

Ashford gave themselves a great chance of victory with goals from Smith, Rob Playford and Danny Wells. However, the high-flying Wayfarers managed to break down the Ashford defence on four occasions to clinch a 4-3 win.

The result leaves Ashford in the bottom three just two points above basement side Richmond.

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 Mark Stimson on Gillingham's pursuit of Chris Dickson and other transfer targets

Seven-star Hotel overcome Cavaliers

JUST one game took place in the Ashford Sunday League due to the wet weather, with Market Hotel putting seven past Ashford Cavaliers.

Hotel's Scott McRobert opened the scoring on five minutes, but the lead was short-lived as Kevin Freand equalised for Cavaliers.

Five goals from Dan Cornell put the game out of the reach of the Cavaliers.

Despite Cornell's impressive form in goal, Cavaliers tried to get back into the game and scored twice through Andrew Wood and Michael Perry.

But McRobert added the final goal to clinch a 7-3 victory for Hotel.

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Kent keep an eye on in-form Academy boy

SAM Northeast stepped up his ambitions of becoming the next Academy youngster to break into the Kent team after a consistent run of scores for England under-19s.

The right-handed batsman hit three half centuries in five innings as England lost 3-2 in their one-day series in South Africa.

After failing to get into double figures in the first One-Day International, Northeast hit 63 in the second game but couldn't prevent the South Africans taking a 2-0 lead.

The England team pulled together after the second game in Cape Town and recorded

CRICKET

back-to-back victories to level the series at 2-apiece. Northeast scored 68 in the fourth One-Day International before hitting his third half century (68), in the fifth game in which South Africa won by five wickets to claim the series.

Northeast, 19, from Ashford, received some words of encouragement from coach Andy Pick who had asked the Kent youngster to help anchor the England innings

throughout the series.

The young Kent batter, who is likely to be given an extended run in the first team this season, then top scored for England in their first Twenty20 game with the South Africans. He hit 47 at better than a run-a-ball and his efforts opening the innings have not gone unnoticed at the St Lawrence Ground.

Academy director Phil Relf said: "We have been keeping tabs on how he is doing and we're very pleased with how well he has done. That will hopefully set him up for the summer."



RED MIST Tony Browne (pictured) was sent off leaving Ashford Town to battle to a hard fought draw against Dulwich Hamlet with only ten men on the pitch

Town scrape a tough draw after Browne sees red

A STRAIGHT red card for midfielder Tony Browne cost Ashford Town the chance to clinch their eighth consecutive league win, according to assistant manager Hugo Langton.

The midfieler was given his marching orders on 28 minutes, leaving Ashford to play the majority of the game with ten men but they are a difficult side to beat these days and a Paul Jones goal ensured a share of the points.

Manager Steve Lovell was the only absentee for the game suffering from flu, leaving assistant Langton in charge for the first time. Up until the half hour, Langton was pleased with how his side had adapted to the wet conditions, but a challenge over the top of the ball from Browne turned the game on its head.

The challenge caused a melee in front of the dug outs and the red card for Browne was a decision that angered Langton.

He said: "When Browne went into the challenge the Dulwich bench invaded the pitch and I think their reaction made the

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Dulwich Hamlet 1

Kaffo 30

Ashford Town 1

Jones 53

referee show a red card."

The decision seemed to effect the Ashford players and once the game resumed they fell behind to a goal from Junior Kaffo.

Town knew they would have a tough task to salvage a result but they kept going and entered the break trailing by a single goal.

However, in the second half the loss of Browne seemed to galvanize the team and they levelled the game on 53 minutes with Jones' 12th goal of the season.

Ashford continued to attack and could have won the game through Elliott Brathwaite, but

Ashford Town starting XI



Subs used: Elford (Spice 45), Glyde (Lye 56)

his header from six-yards sailed over the bar.

Dulwich came close to snatching the win in the dying minutes as Stanley Muguo lost his marker in the area but failed to beat Town goalkeeper Seb Barton.

Langton praised his team for their attitude in salvaging a hard fought point from Champion Hill.

He said: "It probably was a fair result in the end but the sending off of Tony Browne I think cost us the game. My players deserve every bit of credit for fighting on to get a draw out of the game."

No-show referee makes it a trying time for Ashford

RUGBY

■ BY TOM HOWARD

A NO show from a referee forced the abandonment of Ashford RFC's Kent 1 game at Old Dartfordians, leaving the team a whole month without playing a competitive fixture.

Ashford were ready to do battle in what would have been their first game of 2009, but the lack of a referee ended their hopes of victory before a whistle had been blown.

As a result of the cold and wet weather, Ashford have not played a game since December 20 when they beat Cranbrook in the league and this latest postponement could cause a large backlog of fixtures.

Captain John Norman was frustrated with Saturday's postponement and is desperate just to play any game.

He said: "Frustrating is one way to put it. We were out on the pitch ready to go after warming up only to be told there was no referee to run the game. Old Dartfordians tried to find someone else to referee the game, but that was not fruitful so we were forced to go home."

"With the weather and this, it means we have not played for around a month so it would just be nice to be able to play a game. We are going to have a massive backlog of



DESPERATE: Ashford RFC would like to get back to playing games after a month of frustrating postponements

games to try and fit in."

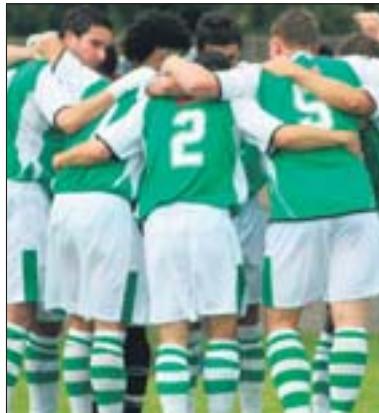
Ashford hope their game with basement side Askeans goes ahead this Saturday and Norman feels it's a must-win game.

He said: "We can't take it for granted but we

should really get a win in our next game. Just to be back out playing would be good."

Ashford's postponed clash with league leaders Medway has been re-arranged to take place on February 7.

FOOTBALL



UNITED: Town are unbeaten in the last 12 games

Next six weeks will shape our season, says stand-in boss

AFTER deputising for flu suffering manager Steve Lovell on Saturday, assistant Hugo Langton feels it is too early to start talking about winning the Ryman South title.

With Ashford in fourth place after Saturday's 1-1 draw with Dulwich Hamlet, Town are now seven points adrift of league leaders Kingstone, but a potential title bid has swept through the club.

Town are unbeaten in their last 12 games, but Langton believes their chance for promotion will be decided by their form in the next six weeks.

He said: "People are talking about us launching a title bid but I feel it is too early to start talking about it in January. If we are still in or around the play-off places in March then we can seriously start to think about it. It will all depend how we do in the next six weeks which I feel are crucial."

"The club should not be in the position it is in and the fans have been starved of success. It would certainly be nice to give them something to cheer about."

Langton joined the club in October from Kent League side Holmesdale to replace former assistant Rob Udberg.

Langton, who is a close friend of Lovell, has settled into the club well and feels the squad are good enough to challenge for honours.

He added: "I am really enjoying my time at the club. I have known Steve for a few years and everyone has made me feel welcome at the club. The players here are great to work with and I would not swap any of the squad for other players at the moment. I think any of them could walk into sides in the division and get a place in their first team."

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Watch our football round-up with reaction from the county's managers



CAMP INDIA: Kent Academy director Phil Relf

Future pace bowlers all set for Indian camp

CRICKET

FOUR of Kent's brightest young bowlers have an opportunity to be coached by Australian legend Dennis Lillee at the world renowned MRF pace bowling camp in India.

Two Academy players and two players on development contracts at the St Lawrence Ground are being given a chance to learn and hone their skills thanks to contributions from the Kent Supporters Club and Kent member Charlie Harris.

Academy players Matt Coles, 18, who plays his cricket with Hartley Country Club and Adam Ball, 15, from Bexley will be heading to Chennai, together with development contract players Phil Edwards, 24, from Gore Court and Warren Lee, 21, from Blackheath.

Academy director Phil Relf, who will be leading the group to India, said it will be a big opportunity for Kent's future pace bowlers and that it couldn't have been done without the two benefactors.

"Indian conditions are demanding with the climate and different wickets so it will be a steep learning curve," he said. "We want to get as much time with Dennis Lillee as possible as that will be a valuable experience."

They leave for the ten day trip on Friday.

If you'd like to help sponsor the Academy, contact Phil Relf on 01227 456886.

Sport handed a funding lifeline to compete in 2012

HANDBALL

DREAMS of entering a Great Britain handball team for the 2012 Olympics were given renewed hope after an Ashford man helped secure funding from Europe.

Last month UK Sport announced their budget for 2012 Olympic funding had been cut by £50 million. The cut means a number of sports will expect less money than budgeted, threatening the Olympic ambitions of the Great Britain handball team.

Consequently, Paul Goodwin from Ashford, who is also the general manager of the British Handball Association, travelled to Germany and Norway last week to meet professional teams and discuss a possible co-operation and extra funding options.

Discussions with German clubs SG Flensburg-Handewitt and Tussem Essen proved fruitful and Great Britain's chances of competing in the London Games are now looking a lot brighter.

Goodwin said: "The trip has been very positive for us. We have spoken to at least three professional teams and we have good news. There could be a chance for us to agree co-operation deals and we have been approached by possible sponsors for the GB team."

"Discussions with Flensburg have gone very well, but the Tussem Essen team have offered six places to members of our men's team to play out there and expand on their skills. It will mean the club will pay their wages and will save us money as the academy will be looking after them."



OLYMPIC DREAM: Paul Goodwin hopes to lead the Great Britain handball team to the 2012 Olympics



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